PRESENTED BY

kakifly

K-ON! high school

PRESENTED BY

kakifly

K-ON!

high School

K-ON! high school

HEY, AZUSA.

AZUSA, WANNA TAKE A BREATHER BY CHECKING OUT THAT BRAND NEW PLACE?

SIGH... I'M SO TIRED OF THESE SPRING TERM COURSES...

ふすっ

AZUSA!

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR NOT PAYING ATTENTION.

W-WHAT WAS THAT FOR, JUN!?

GULK

IF YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO ME, I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO HOME AND LEAVE YOU BEHIND!

GULK

YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT OUR SENPAIS WHO ALREADY GRADUATED, AREN'T YOU?

HEY!! ANYBODY THERE!? DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING!!

ポケー

STARED OUT

ボーー...

STARE

...NOT YOU TOO...

HONESTLY, LII, COULD YOU SAY SOME-THING TO—

OH, SORRY! I'M SORRY, JUN!!

FINE, I'M LEAVING!!

WHY WERE YOU SPACING OUT, UI?

SLINK

カラン…

…SO?

I CAN TELL AZUSA WAS JUST GOING, "WAHH, I WANNA SEE SENPAI AGAIN," LIKE ALWAYS.

I WAS NOT!

WHAT ARE YOU, A RECENTLY RETIRED SALARY-MAN?

I'M JUST SO BORED NOW. EVER SINCE MY SISTER LEFT HOME, I HAVE NOTHING TO DO AROUND THE HOUSE...

(C) DAIOKI

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NOT THAT!!

...WHY DON'T YOU TWO JUST GO VISIT HER?

...IF I CAN REALLY TAKE OVER SUCH AN INCREDIBLE CLUB AND HAVE IT BE AS SPECIAL...

I JUST DON'T KNOW...

LISTEN, AZUSA...

SHOCK

WELL, OF COURSE YOU CAN'T.

AND IF YOU'RE BORED, UI, JUST TRY SOMETHING NEW!

PSHG

OUCH!

JUST DO WHAT YOU CAN DO, AND THAT'S ENOUGH!

YOU ARE THE PRESIDENT OF THE POP MUSIC CLUB NOW!

.....
.....

CAN I SCE?

I NEED TO TAKE A PAGE FROM YOUR SIMPLE BOOK, JUN!

HMM? WAS THAT SUP-POSED TO BE A COMPLI-MENT!?

GOOD POINT... MAYBE I'VE BEEN OVER-THINKING THINGS.

I'LL STICK AROUND AND TAKE PART IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB THIS YEAR TOO!

HEH-HEH... I'M THE CLUB PREZ NOW! GOT MY HANDS FULL.

NOW WILL YOU SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY HANGING OUT WITH ME—

WELL, THAT SETTLES THAT!

HEE

HEE

I BET IF YOU TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU USED TO SPEND ON YUI-SENPAI AND USE IT FOR THE CLUB INSTEAD, YOU'LL GET GOOD IN NO TIME!

HMMMPH!

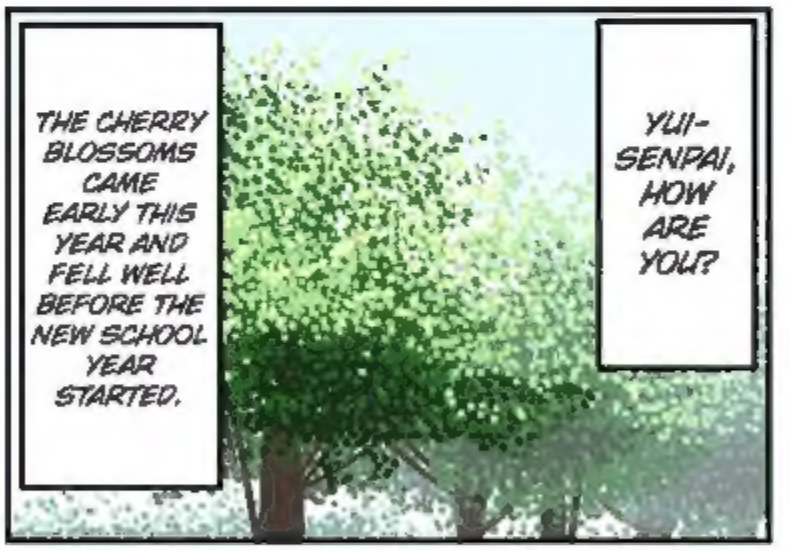
I FOR-GIVE YOU!!

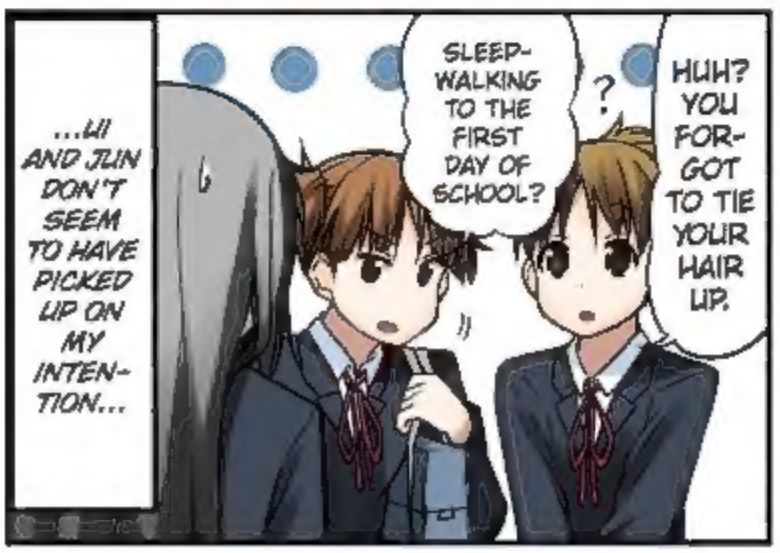
SORRY, SORRY. CAN I MAKE IT UP TO YOU WITH SOME JUICE?

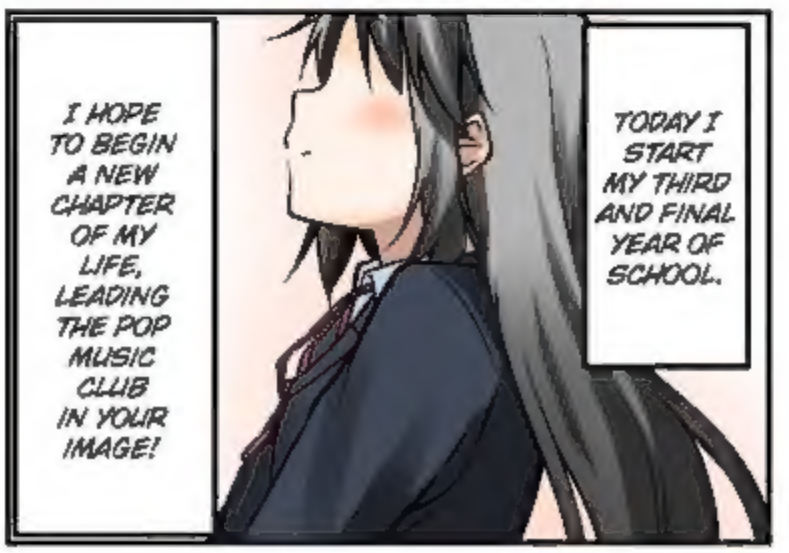
OH, FINE! I REALLY AM LEAVING!!

THAT WAS QUICK!

UI! JUN! MORN-ING!
HEY, AZUSA!
AZUSA-CHAN...
BUT...


THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS CAME EARLY THIS YEAR AND FELL WELL BEFORE THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR STARTED.
YUI-SENPAI, HOW ARE YOU?


...UI AND JUN DON'T SEEM TO HAVE PICKED UP ON MY INTEN-TION...
SLEEP-WALKING TO THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?
HUH? YOU FOR-GOT TO TIE YOUR HAIR UP.


I HOPE TO BEGIN A NEW CHAPTER OF MY LIFE, LEADING THE POP MUSIC CLUB IN YOUR IMAGE!
TODAY I START MY THIRD AND FINAL YEAR OF SCHOOL.

YOU CAN'T EVEN PRETEND TO BE HAPPY FOR US?

I JUST WANT TO PUT MY HAIR BACK...

OOH, WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AGAIN!

THAT'S RIGHT!!

OH, SO YOU'RE CHANG-ING YOUR LOOK...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MAYBE I SHOULD TRY A NEW LOOK TOO.

I CAN STILL DO MY BEST, EVEN WITH MY REGULAR OLD HAIRSTYLE.

ALREADY GIVING UP ON DAY ONE?

HMM, BUT...

IT'S A DISPLAY OF MY INTENTION TO DO MY BEST THIS YEAR!

WOW... DEJA-VU...

ARE YOU SURE IT WASN'T THAT YOU WANTED TO COPY YOUR BELOVED SENPAI?

EGH?

YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MIO-SENPAI.

NOT SO FAST!!

AZU-MEO!

THAT WAS FAST!

AND I WAS RIGHT

...OKAY, I'LL PUT IT BACK.

I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO BAD, I PRETENDED TO BE UI!

C'MON, LET'S GET GOING.

The entrance ceremony starts at nine o'clock. [illegible] students please report to the gymnasium.

NO... WAIT, JUN...

I ADMIT THE RESEMBLANCE'S UNCANNY

C'MON, UI, GIVE IT A REST.

SERIOUSLY, KNOCK IT OFF!

ぞぞぞ SHIVER

IT'S TOO EERIE

OH, AZUMEOW, YOU'RE SO BASHFUL♡

WHAT!? ARE YOU SERIOUS!?

IT'S JUST THE KIND OF THING YUI-SENPAI WOULD DO!!

IT REALLY IS AMAZING HOW IDENTICAL UI AND YUI-SENPAI ARE.

YEAH, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...

MY BUST!?

GOOD MORNING, UI-CHAN.

HUH?

ACTUALLY, I AM YUI.

キーンコーンカーンコーン
DING DONG
SCHOOL'S OUT!
HURGH
ガタッ

HOW IS SHE?
PLEASE DON'T TALK TO MY CHEST...
ARE YOU PRETENDING TO BE YUI-CHAN AGAIN?

I HATE TO RAIN ON YOUR PARADE, BUT...
AZUSA, AZUSA! LET'S GO TO THE CLUB ROOM!

MORNING! IT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER WILD YEAR FOR THE POP MUSIC CLUB. YOU READY FOR IT?
GOOD MORNING, SENSE!...

WE CAN'T HAVE THE SAME OLD TEA PARTIES.
...I THINK MUGI-SENPAI TOOK THE TEA SET WITH HER.

WE WILL!
DON'T WORRY, UI AND I WILL HELP AZUSA OUT!

WEREN'T YOU GOING TO "HELP ME OUT"?
DRAG DRAG DRAG DRAG
ずる ずる ずる ずる
...MAYBE I'LL JUST GO HOME, THEN...

THEY SEEM TO BE IN RELAXATION MODE. DO THEY NOT REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING...?
LET'S HAVE MORE TEA AFTER SCHOOL!

HUH!?

I'LL BRING SOMETHING FOR YOU NEXT TIME.

MY TEA... MY SNACKS...

WOULD YOU FORGET ABOUT THE TEA ALREADY?

MY TEA...

NO WAY!? AWE-SOME!!

THE TEA SET'S STILL HERE...

NO, IT'S NOT...

OR WAS THAT ACTUALLY THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE HERE?

HUH? WHO'S THAT?

FINALLY, OUR TEA PARTY...

HA-HA-HA.

BUT I ALWAYS LIKED THE IDEA OF A GRACEFUL LATE AFTER-NOON TEA PARTY!

IMAGINATION

WHAT IS SHE DOING ...?

HNNNG...

MUNCH ポリ MUNCH ポリ

SLURRRP ずずずずず

...SERI-OUSLY?

REALITY

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

A BLUE RIBBON... IS SHE A NEW STUDENT?

GASP

STARE

HEY, YOU DO SPEAK JAPA-NESE.

SO THE RIBBON THAT THE CLUB SENPAIS WORE IS THE FIRST-YEARS' COLOR NOW... IT FEELS A BIT ODD.

HEY, JUN! TRY TALKING TO HER.

DO YOU THINK SHE MIGHT BE FOREIGN?

WHISPER

EH!? WHY ME!?

OH, SURE, NOW SHE'S BRAVE...

BLAH

BLAH

BLAH

BLAH

WE'RE IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB! ARE YOU LOOKING TO JOIN? WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

I'M DOING IT RIGHT, AREN'T I...?

UMMM... <WH...WHAT... ARE...YOU?>

IS SHE OUT-RIGHT ADMIT-TING TO BEING A THIEF!?

OH, NO, ACTUALLY I WAS TRYING TO TAKE THAT DISH CABINET...

SHE CAN'T!?

UH-OH... <I-I CAN'T... SPEAK... E-ENGLISH.>

SENSEI'S LOCKED IN A TRANCE...

OHH.

THIS IS A PERFECT BLEND, A FLAVOR THAT CANNOT BE REACHED WITHOUT WATER AT EXACTLY 203 DEGREES, PRODUCING PROPER TEA JUMPING...

AND YOU CAN'T JOIN UP UNLESS YOU CAN MAKE A MEAN TEA!

UM, YOU REALIZE THAT'S POP MUSIC CLUB PROPERTY, RIGHT?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'RE OUT OF THE CLUB, JUN.

HEY, IS THAT BLONDE HAIR NATURAL? YOUR EYES ARE BLUE, AFTER ALL!

EEK.

INCREDIBLE! WHERE DID YOU LEARN THIS?

THAT WAS FAST!!

UMM... ACTUALLY, I JUST DID...

OKAY, YOU TWO, SETTLE DOWN... SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

M-MY GOODNESS...

WHAT A TOTALLY NORMAL JAPANESE NAME.

UM...MY NAME IS SUMIRE SAITOU.

WHEN DID YOU GET HERE, SENSEI!?

THE FRESH SCENT OF FRAGRANT TEA PERMEATES MY NOSTRILS! ♡

C'MON, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE!?

SHE MIGHT HAVE ACTUALLY JOINED IF YOU HADN'T SCARED HER OFF, SENSEI...

WE'RE ACTUALLY LOW ON MEM-BERS...

HEY, SAITOU-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY INTER-EST IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB!?

THEN WHO'S GOING TO PLAY BASS AND DRUMS!?

UM... GIRLS?

CHATTER わ

CHATTER わ

NO BIGGIE! WE CAN JUST BE A THREE-PIECE BAND! I CALL DIBS ON GUITAR!

BLONDE HAIR... BLUE EYES...

UM, I'M SORRY, I DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT..

YOU DO KNOW THAT THE CLUB WILL BE CLOSED IF THERE AREN'T AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS... RIGHT?

EEEK!?

OH, YOU'LL MAKE QUITE A MOD-EL...

I'M SORR-RYYY !!

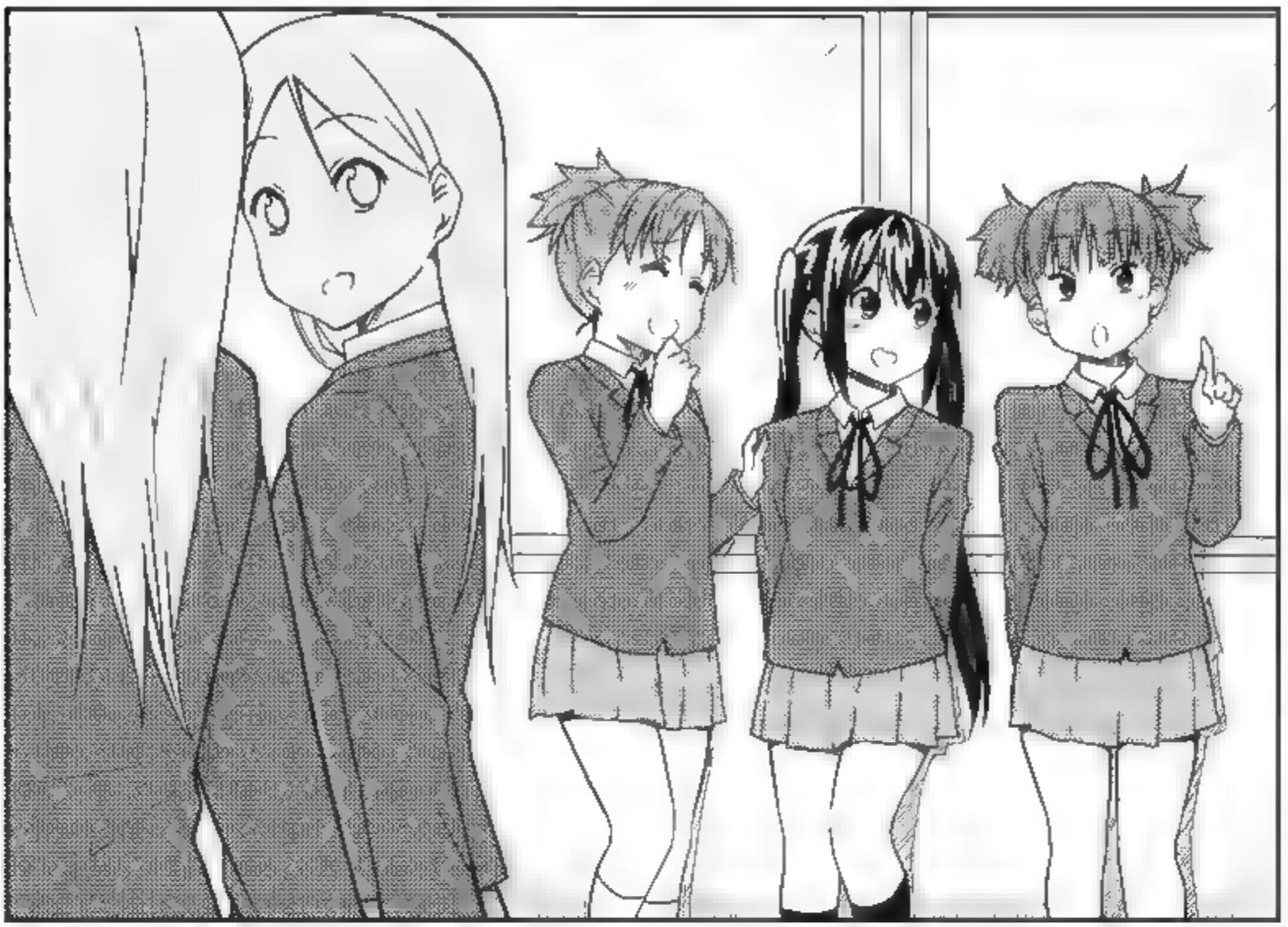
AND WE COULD HAVE HAD OUR FOURTH MEMBER JUST NOW IF YOU HADN'T SCREWED IT UP!!

SEN-SEI...

HUH?

ZOOM

AAAAH!!



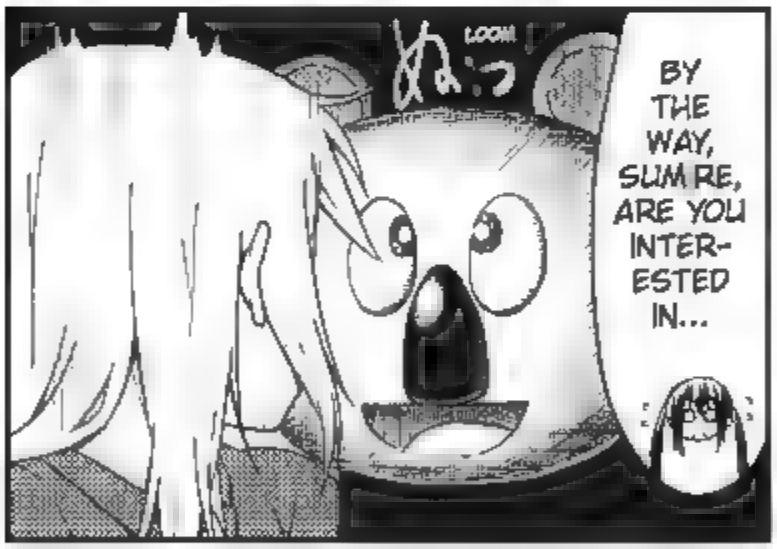
MY NAME IS SUMIRE SAITOU.
I'VE BEEN PERFORMING VARIOUS TASKS IN EXCHANGE FOR BEING ALLOWED TO LIVE WITH THE KOTOBUKI FAMILY.
GET IT TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE THE TERM STARTS, OKAY?
SHE TOLD ME.
I'M HERE TO RETRIEVE MISTRESS TSUMUGI'S TEA SET FROM THE POP MUSIC CLUB-ROOM...
I MUST PERFORM MY DUTIES AS INSTRUCTED!
+SHE'S ALREADY FAILED.

MMM, IT SMELLS SO NICE. ♡

EEK!! I'VE BEEN SPOT-TED!!
HEY, IT'S SUMEERE!

YOU HAVE TO TEACH ME HOW YOU MAKE YOUR TEA!
I'D BE GLAD TO!
THE MELDING OF DELICATE LEAVES AND, UM. TEMPERA-TURE
GIVE IT UP

HELLO, SU-MEERE-CHAN.
UH, WE KNEW YOU WERE HERE THE WHOLE TIME...


BY THE WAY, SUMIRE, ARE YOU INTER-ESTED IN...

IT JUST SEEMS TO FIT YOUR APPEAR-ANCE BETTER!
UM, WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME "SU-MEERE"?

SEN-SEI...
I BROUGHT A COSTUME, GIRLS... WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
EEEK!!

R-RIGHT AWAY!
SUMEERE-CHAN'S TEA IS THE BEST.
ANYWAYS, GET STARTED ON OUR TEA!
FORCE OF HABIT

AM I USE-LESS?

ENOUGH OF THIS! I'LL BRING IN FRESH BLOOD WITHOUT YOUR HELP, SENSEI!

IT'S LIKE A COMEDY SKIT EVERY TIME.

HOW DO YOU ALWAYS PICK THE WORST POSSIBLE T ME TO SHOW UP!?

SOB

SOB

THERE'S A NEW STUDENT WELCOMING PARTY TOMORROW, RIGHT? WE'LL PERFORM SOMETHING THERE!

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, AZUSA?

SO WHAT'S THIS COSTUME FOR, SENSEI?

.....
.....

WE'VE NEVER EVEN PLAYED TOGETHER.

I DON'T HAVE AN INSTRU-MENT, THOUGH.

STOP TRYING TO TURN THAT INTO A TRADI-TION!

IT'S A CLUB TRADITION TO DRESS UP AND PASS OUT RECRUIT-MENT FLYERS TO THE NEW STU-DENTS!

FOR-GET YOU!!

SENSE

SEE VOL 2, P.11!

MY PERSONA TRAUMA

THAT WAS THE POP MUSIC CLUB'S ?

I CAN NEVER MAKE FUN OF YUI-SENPAI FOR THAT AGAIN...

GLOOM

ズーーーン..

I NEVER KNEW IT WAS SO HARD TO PLAY GUITAR AND SING AT THE SAME TIME...

Congrats on starting high school, everyone!

IN THE END, I DECIDED TO PLAY AND SING SOLO.

UMM... I'D LIKE TO SIT IN AND OBSERVE THE CLUB...

SLIDE

ガラッ

I DON'T THINK IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH PLAYING AT THE SAME TIME. YOU'RE JUST NOT A GOOD—

JUN-CHAN!

If you have any interest in instruments or being in a band, please stop by! Everyone is welcome!

We in the pop music club are low on members, and we'll be shut down if we don't get any-

SEE? YOUR SINGING REALLY WAS GOOD, AZUSA-CHAN!

EH?

WE'VE GOT ONE!

SO FAR, SO GOOD...

I hope you enjoy this song!

WOW, AZUSA-CHAN'S A GREAT SPEAKER ON STAGE!

YEAH, I FIGURED ...

THE SONG WAS VERY UNIQUE

UM, NO, I'M JUST TRYING OUT ALL THE CLUBS I CAN FOR NOW...

HER SINGING SUCKS!!

THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW!
CHEER UP, AZUSA-CHAN.

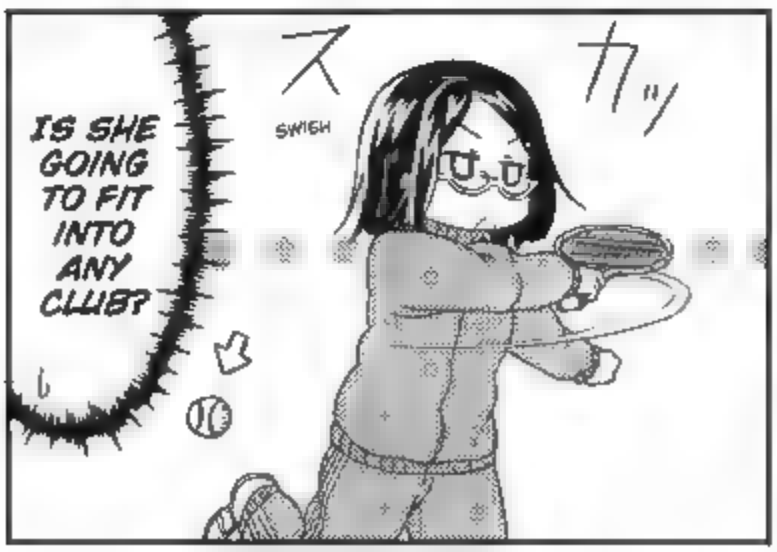
SORRY, IT'S THE ONLY INSTRUMENT WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT...
WANNA TRY PLAYING GUITAR?

NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT ME IN THE CLUB, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN LET IT DIE!

NO, THAT'S HOW YOU HOLD A VIOLIN...
?
?

HEY, THERE'S THE GIRL WHO CAME BY TO CHECK OUT THE CLUB.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO PUT ON ANOTHER SOLO SHOW IN THE COURTYARD TOMORROW
STOP TORTURING THEM!

SNAP
WHOA! THE LOWEST STRING SNAPPED!


SWISH
IS SHE GOING TO FIT INTO ANY CLUB?

I'M GUESSING SHE WON'T STICK AROUND...
MUT-TAN
BOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THE NEXT DAY

THIS IS IT... TODAY'S MY CHANCE ...

THE COAST IS CLEAR..

Yoohoo, Azu-meow! What's up?

AH... HELLO, YUI-SENPAI? HOW ARE YOU?

I'M HAVING TROUBLE RECRUIT-ING NEW MEMBERS...I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME TIPS.

Tips? There's no trick to it!

SUMIRE!

I'VE BEEN SPOT-TED!!

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE SOME OF YOUR TEA!

I BAKED A CAKE AND BROUGHT IT TO SCHOOL! WANT TO EAT SOME?

THE WAY I WANT...

I think you should just do it the way you want, Azu-meow.

HOW CUTE.

SHE'S SO OBEDIENT.

DASH

YES, RIGHT AWAY!

What? What does that mean!?

...I GUESS YOU'RE STILL THE SAME OLD YUI-SENPAI!

HEH-HEH! YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND MORE LIKE MY SISTER, AZUSA-CHAN!

EH!? WHAT!? I'M GROWING TO RE-SEMBLE YUI-SENPAI!?

OOH! IT'S GOOD...

REALLY? GREAT!

MMM

WHAT A SHOCK!!

WHY A SHOCK? ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING!?

BUT THEY DO SEEM TO BE ALWAYS HAVING FUN...

I GUESS I COULD JOIN THIS CLUB...

THIS CAKE IS YUMMY

UM... WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TALK TO ME LIKE THIS?

もぐ... MUNCH

WHY NOT? WE ALWAYS HAVE TEA TOGETHER!

WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE COMING TO THE CLUB-ROOM TO CHAT WITH US!

IT'S FUN JUST LOUNG-ING AROUND AND TALKING, ISN'T IT?

I CAN'T TELL HER THAT I'M ONLY HERE TO GET BACK THE TEA SET...

HUH ...? AM I GET-TING THE WRONG IDEA?

WE'VE GOT ONE!!

AAAGH!!

HI MOM, I'M HOME!!

CLICK カチャ カチャ CLICK

AZUSA? CAN'T YOU SAY HELLO WHEN YOU WALK IN THE DOOR?

MOM

UM, HELLO? I'D LIKE TO JOIN...

HELP ME!

Eh? What did I do?

AH, YUI-SENPAI? I MANAGED TO GET SOME MEMBERS! IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!

AH... OKUDA-SAN...? FROM MY CLASS ...?

OH! FROM YESTER-DAY!

Hang in there, Club Prez Azu-meow!

Well, that means Azu-meow's pop music club is ready to begin!

YES. I TRIED OUT ALL OF THE CLUBS IN THE SCHOOL, AND...

ALL OF THEM!?

A-ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO JOIN?

MY CLUB... MY POP MUSIC CLUB!!

FLOP ﾊﾞﾀﾝ

FLOP ﾊﾞﾀﾝ

AZU-MEOW? HELLO?

AFTER THAT SORRY DISPLAY!?

...I THINK I'LL DO THE BEST IN THIS ONE!

THE NEW
POP MUSIC CLUB!

ガラッ
SO YUI-SEN-PAI IS AMAZED WHEN SHE SEES
AH THERE YOU ARE

キーン コーン
HANG ON, AZUSA-CHAN.
LET'S GO TO THE CLUB-ROOM, YOU TWO!

ビクッ
NOTH-ING'S CHANGED AT ALL!

YOU SEEM REALLY PUMPED UP TODAY!
OF COURSE! NOW THAT WE'VE GOT OUR MEMBERS, WE NEED TO GET PRACTICING

YEAH, YOU LOOK LIKE A REAL-LIFE MAID.

I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT LOOKS VERY GOOD ON HER.

GASP!

AH...ER, SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOUT..

BA-BUMP ドキ

BA-BUMP ドキ

WH-WHAT'S WRONG, AZUSA-CHAN?

THEY FIND OUT I'M A MAID

THEY FIND OUT I WORKED FOR THE KOTOBUKIS

THEY FIND OUT I FAILED TO EXECUTE MISS TSUMUGI'S ORDERS

THE MISTRESS SCOLDS ME

HUH!?

I'LL TAKE YOUR BAG.

OH, THANKS. HEY!

OF COURSE IT WON'T CHANGE OVER-NIGHT... NEED TO KEEP IT STEADY.

THAT LOOKED KINDA INTEN-TIONAL...

I CAN'T LET THEM FIGURE IT OUT!

E-EEK! I TRIPPED BECAUSE IT'S SO HARD WALKING AROUND IN THIS STRANGE MAID OUTFIT!

WHATCHA EATIN'?

WHAT? SHE WAS ALREADY WEARING IT WHEN I SHOWED UP.

ARE YOU DRESSING PEOPLE UP IN MAID OUTFITS AGAIN, SEN-SEI? IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, SUMIRE, YOU SHOULD JUST SAY SO...

IS SHE... HAPPY ABOUT THIS!?

BANG

A KLUTZY MAID... IT'S PER-FECT!

WHAT KIND OF CLUB DOES SHE THINK THIS IS?

I SAW THE MAID OUTFIT, AND I ASSUMED NEW MEMBERS HAD TO WEAR IT..

YEAH, I KNOW, BUT GUITAR'S SO COOL TOO...
I THOUGHT YOU STARTED BASS BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO BE LIKE MIO-SENPAI.. ? IS THAT HOW QUICKLY YOU MOVE ON?

THERE YOU ARE, OKUDA-SAN! NOW WE'RE ALL HERE.
EXCUSE ME, SORRY FOR BEING LATE.

IT'S NOT LIKE I GOT BORED WITH BASS OR ANY-THING!
ARGH! JUST PICK SOME-THING AND STICK WITH IT!

I STILL DON'T HAVE AN INSTRU-MENT.
MUNCH
MUNCH
GOOD IDEA.
I THINK IT'S TIME WE SETTLED WHO PLAYS WHAT INSTRU-MENT.

OH, REALLY... SO YOU TRIED DRUMS AND BASS TOO, SENSEI?
IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER THAT I REALIZED HOW GREAT BASS AND DRUMS ARE.
HEE-HEE, I REMEMBER FIGHTING OVER THE GUITAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.

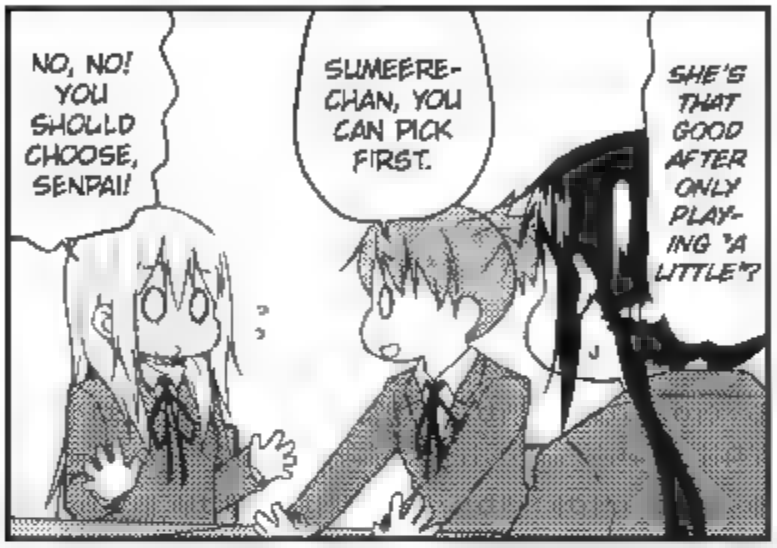
OOH, OOH, ME! I WANNA PLAY GUITAR!
FIRST, JUN AND I WILL PLAY BASS AND GUI-TAR, SO...

...CAN YOU PLEASE NOT TALK FOR A WHILE?
BLUSH
WHO, ME? NO, I'D NEVER LET ANYONE ELSE PLAY GUITAR.

ME, ME, ME! I WANT GUITAR!
... SHE JUST HAS TO MAKE THINGS HARD-ER....

WELL, I'VE PLAYED GUITAR BEFORE, BUT ONLY A LITTLE...
I WAS BORN TO PLAY THE BASS...
DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANY REQUESTS?

SURE! YOU GOT IT!
FINE, I'LL LET YOU TAKE MY GUITAR. TRY PLAYING SOMETHING.


NO, NO! YOU SHOULD CHOOSE, SENPAI!
SUMEERE-CHAN, YOU CAN PICK FIRST.
SHE'S THAT GOOD AFTER ONLY PLAY-ING "A LITTLE"?

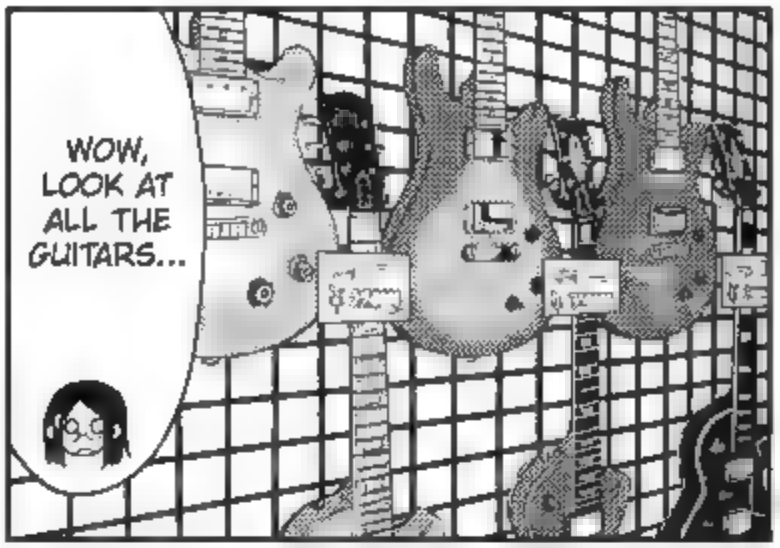
BLONG
ボヨーン
HRMM!
ARGH!
ペコン
PLEOK
ペロン
PLUNK
YO! HAH!

HMM? WHAT IS IT?
I'M SORRY, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN KEEPING FROM EVERY-ONE...

ARE YOU... DONE AL-READY?
スッ
RISE
.....

WE ALL KNOW THAT!! WHY DID YOU WAIT UNTIL NOW TO SPEAK UP!?
I...I'VE NEVER PLAYED A MUSICAL INSTRU-MENT IN MY LIFE!!

BACK TO BASS WITH YOU, THEN.
...I DON'T THINK GUI-TAR'S FOR ME...


WOW, LOOK AT ALL THE GUITARS...

AT THE MUSIC STORE
TRY OUT THE REAL THING AND SEE IF ANYTHING CLICKS.
HUH? ISN'T THIS OWNED BY THE KOTO-BUKI—

OH! LOOK AT THIS ONE!
THEY'RE QUITE A SIGHT LINED UP TOGETHER!

EEEK!!
HEY! IS THAT YOU, SAITOU-SAN?

IT REALLY IS CUTE!♡
IT'S THE SAME AS MY SIS-TER'S, RIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I JUST SAW YOU THE OTHER DAY.
?
I-I THINK YOU MUST HAVE THE WRONG PER-SON.

EH? ISN'T IT CUTE? ISN'T IT?
I CANNOT AGREE
I GUESS TWO SIS-TERS THINK ALIKE...

HUH? YOU SURE?
S-SENPAI, LET'S GO SEE THE GUITARS!
I DID DO SOME-THING MEAN TO HER?

TH-THANK YOU. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN PLAY AS WELL AS YOU, THOUGH.

SATISFIED ↓

WANT TO TRY, SAITOU-SAN?

UM, THAT WASN'T HOW YOU PLAY DRUMS.

I-I WONDER IF YOU'D FIT BETTER BEHIND A DRUM SET!

EH!?

I WANT TO PLAY THIS GU-TAR..

OKAY, SO FIRST YOU CROSS YOUR HANDS..

UMM, UMM...

I DO? WELL, HERE GOES...

HEY, YOU LOOK GOOD THERE!

SHE CAN'T POSSIBLY DESTROY A DRUM SET...

I PROBABLY MADE THE EMPLOYEE HERE ANGRY ALREADY...

SIGH... WHY AM I EVEN DOING THIS?

OH, AND THE HI-HAT IS THE CYMBAL-LOOKING THING ON YOUR LEFT

PLAY THE HI-HAT WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND

...OR CAN SHE!?

PUNCH

ビクッ

ヒュー

WHEEE

ドン

BOOM

NOT BAD ...

WOW, SHE'S POWER-FUL!

ARRGH, I'M SO STUPID STUPID STUPID!!

WHAM

ドドド

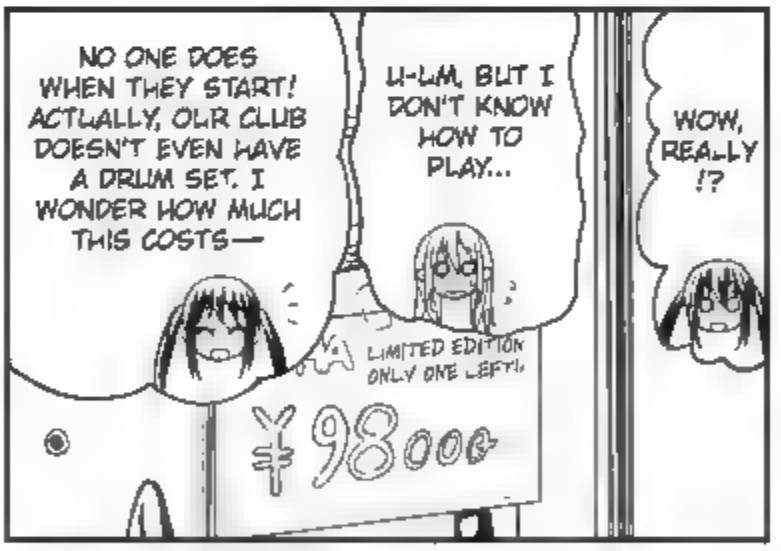
WHAT SHALL WE DO...?
SIGH. I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE EX-PENSE...

HUH!? WHAT DID I DO?
THAT WAS INCRED-IBLE, SUM-IRE!!

THAT'S IT! I'LL JUST GO AND NEGOTI-ATE...
I SEEM TO REMEMBER MY SISTER SAYING THAT SHE BEGGED FOR A DISCOUNT.

MAYBE PLAYING MUSIC WILL BE FUN...
BUT... IT DID FEEL REALLY GOOD...

WHAT?
DON'T BOTHER. THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS YUI-SENPAI DOING IT...


NO ONE DOES WHEN THEY START! ACTUALLY, OUR CLUB DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A DRUM SET. I WONDER HOW MUCH THIS COSTS—
U-UM, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY...
WOW, REALLY !?
LIMITED EDITION ONLY ONE LEFT!
¥98000

THINK ABOUT YOUR OC-CUPATION, PLEASE!!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL SEDUCE THE EM-PLOYEE...

COME BACK AND SEE ME AGAIN!
IT'S WAY OUT OF OUR PRICE RANGE.

RITSU-SENPAI WAS A SPECIAL CASE, SINCE SHE HAD HER OWN...
WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT A DRUM SET?
NEXT DAY

WHAT IS IT?
I'VE GOT AN IDEA, UI...

HMM?
ANY IDEAS, SEN-SEI?

YES! CAN I HELP YOU?
UM, EXCUSE ME...

WHAT!? WE HAVE LEFT-OVER MON-EY!? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US!?
MUGI-CHAN COVERED MOST OF OUR COSTS.
WHAT IF WE SPEND OUR UNUSED FUNDS FROM THE LAST TWO YEARS?

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GIVE ME A DISCOUNT?

AZUSA DECIDED MAYBE SHE SHOULD BE NICER TO HER TEACH-ER.
WHAT ARE YOU, A CHILD?
WELL, YOU TOLD ME TO NOT TALK...

WHAT!? I-I'M REALLY SORRY!!
HUH?
YEAH, SURE. LET'S DO THIS AGAIN.
HA-HA-HA.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

ARE YOU THAT HAPPY FOR US, SEN-SEI?
SNIFF...
IT JUST ARRIVED.
AH! A DRUM SET!!
I'M KID-DING, I'M KID-DING!
WHAM
WHAM
ガン
I JUST CAN'T BE-LIEVE THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO ENJOY MY TEA IN SILENCE...
I CAN FEEL THE MOTIVA-TION!
NOW IT RE-ALLY SEEMS LIKE A POP MUSIC CLUB!

OOH, GOOD IDEA!
I HOPE THEY SHOW UP SOON. I WANT TO TAKE A GROUP PHOTO IN FRONT OF THE DRUMS!

I RE-MEMBER HAVING TO DO A BUNCH OF STUFF WHEN I STARTED.
MAYBE THERE'S SOME EVENT THEY'RE DOING.
WHY ARE THE FIRST-YEARS SO LATE TODAY?

THEY ARE GOOF-ING OFF..
IT'S PERFECT! YOU LOOK GREAT!
CHEESE!

DUNNO.. I DON'T HAVE MY OWN CLASS THIS YEAR..
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP, SEN-SEI?

SENSEI... WOULDN'T KNOW, I GUESS.
SHALL WE GO VISIT THEM? WHAT CLASS IS OKUDA-SAN IN?

SOME KIND OF ORIENTATION?
.....
.....
WHAT DID WE DO THIS TIME OF YEAR?

SHE'S IN CLASS 4! I AT LEAST KNOW THAT MUCH!
WE CAN JUST GO ASK SOME FIRST-YEARS!

HUH!? O-OKAY!
ガタッ
SLAM
IT'S NOT LIKE I GOT DENIED MY OWN HOME-ROOM DUE TO INCOM-PETENCE, JUST IN CASE YOU WERE WONDER-ING!!

OH, SEN-PAIS! WHAT IS IT?

ひょい POP

AHA! SUMEE-RE!

OH RIGHT, YOU AND OKUDA-SAN ARE IN THE SAME CLASS!

HEY, PARDON ME? I HAVE A QUICK QUES-TION.

YES?

WE CAME TO FIND YOU, SINCE YOU WERE SO LATE.

OH, I'M SORRY! I'M ON CLEANING DUTY TODAY!

THERE SHOULD BE A GIRL NAMED OKUDA-SAN IN THIS CLASS. IS SHE HERE NOW?

AH... UM...

OH, SHE'S A SENPAI... SHE'S SO TINY AND CUTE!

BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT OKUDA-SAN'S FIRST NAME IS?

WHISPER ひそひそ WHISPER

OF COURSE I DO! IT'S, UM...

THERE ARE ACTUALLY TWO OKUDAS IN THIS CLASS.

WHICH ONE DID YOU WANT?

EH?

UM... UM...

YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER!?

...IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE OKUDA-SAN JOINED THE CLUB, BUT SOMEHOW WE NEVER BOTHERED TO LEARN HER FIRST NAME...

?

AH, OKUDA-SAN! WE WERE LOOK-ING FOR YOU!
OH... HELLO, EVERY-ONE.

AHH, SO HER NAME IS NAO-CHAN.
NAO OKUDA
WAIT! I RE-MEM-BER!! IT'S NAO! NAO-SAN!!

SORRY, I WAS OUT TRAIN-ING IN MUSICAL THEORY, AND...
WHOA, YOU'RE TORN TO PIECES!!

I GUESS I CAN UNDER-STAND THAT...
I-IT'S JUST THAT I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HER AS "OKUDA-SAN!" IT WASN'T THAT I FORGOT HER NAME...

DO-RE-MI-FA-SO!
GRAH!
WHAT KIND OF TRAINING!? WERE YOU FIGHTING BEARS OR WHAT!?
ARE YOU OKAY? HOW DID YOU GET SO DIRTY?

UM... I DON'T THINK SHE'S HERE NOW.
SO WHERE IS SHE?

GEEZ, THAT WAS MISLEAD-ING!!
NO, I WAS JUST READING BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THE SHELF FELL OVER ON ME...
IT WAS SUPER PAIN-FUL

ANOTHER MYSTERY TO BE SOLVED...
SHE OFTEN JUST VANISHES INTO THE SHADOWS WHEN WE GO ON BREAK...

BE CARE-FUL WITH IT, OKAY?

SURE.

IT'LL BE FINE! I JUST NEED TO TRY THIS STUFF ON A GUITAR! CAN I SEE YOURS?

WHEW

THANKS, I'M FEELING BETTER NOW...

ARE YOU OKAY?

SO, IF YOU WANT TO PLAY A C MAJOR SEVENTH CHORD...

YUP, YUP

YOU CAN MAKE THE CHORDS YOUR-SELF!

I'VE BEEN STUDYING MU-SICAL THEORY EVERY DAY, SO I DON'T DRAG THE CLUB DOWN. .

SO WHAT WAS YOUR TRAIN-ING?

ADD... A B...

...YOU JUST ADD A B TO THE C, E AND G NOTES...

HRRG

H-HOW IS IT, SENSEI? DOES SHE HAVE THIS ALL RIGHT?

IT SEEMS LIKE WRITING SONGS FOR A BAND WOULD BE REALLY DI
FICULT BUT WHEN YOU BREAK IT DOWN, THERE ARE A NUMBER O
ET PATTERNS YOU'LL SEE. A SIMPLE EXAMPLE WOULD BE THE THREE
HORD FORMAT WHERE SONGS ARE WRITTEN ENTIRELY WITH A PRO
RESSION CONSISTING OF THREE CHORDS. THEN, THERE ARE MAJO
AND MINOR SCALES, PENTATONIC, DORIAN AND
AND SO ON. THESE WILL PROVIDE GREAT
VARIETY OF SONG FORMS...

OOH INTER-ESTING.

?

?

BACK TO THE BE-GIN-NING.

IF MY FINGERS CAN'T DO THE WORK, MY THEO-RETICAL KNOWL-EDGE IS USE-LESS...

COME ON, MUSIC TEACH-ER!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S SAY-ING!

UM, YES!
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ANY INSTRUMENT, SUMIRE?

UM, WELL... WHY DON'T WE PICK OUR PARTS!?

ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T PICKING THAT TO MAKE US HAPPY?
YES! NOW THE BAND'S COMING TOGETHER!
I WANT TO TRY THE DRUMS. IT WAS FUN PLAYING AT THE STORE.

WHAT? REALLY !?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE SINCE PLAYING GUI-TA..
WELL, ABOUT THAT...I ACTUALLY BOUGHT MYSELF A GUITAR.

I REALLY WANT TO PLAY THE DRUMS! IT'LL BE GREAT STRESS RELIEF!
OH, NOT AT ALL.

WHAT? YOU CAN ASK ME ANY-THING ABOUT GUI-TARS!!
SO I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TEACH ME SOME-THING, AZUSA-CHAN!

I WONDER WHAT'S WEIGHING ON HER...
HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE

UM, IT'S... KIND OF A "FEEL-ING" THING...
TELL ME THE TRICK TO NAMING YOUR GUITAR!!

OKU-DA-CHAN!

STOP!

HUH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING, OKUDA-SAN?

TEK スタ

UM... YES, I HAVE MY OWN AT HOME.

"OKUDA-CHAN"?

CAN YOU USE A COMPUT-ER?

WHAT!?

SOR-RY... I'M QUIT-TING THE POP MU-SIC CLUB.

?? DO THIS, THEN THAT

CAN YOU LOOK AT MY LAP-TOP?

...I GUESS IT'S BETTER NOT TO TRY WHAT YOU'RE NOT USED TO. THANKS FOR THE FUN TIMES, SHORT AS THEY WERE.

I'M JUST NO GOOD AT ANYTHING BUT STUDYING. I WAS HOPING TO PICK UP A NEW INTEREST IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT...

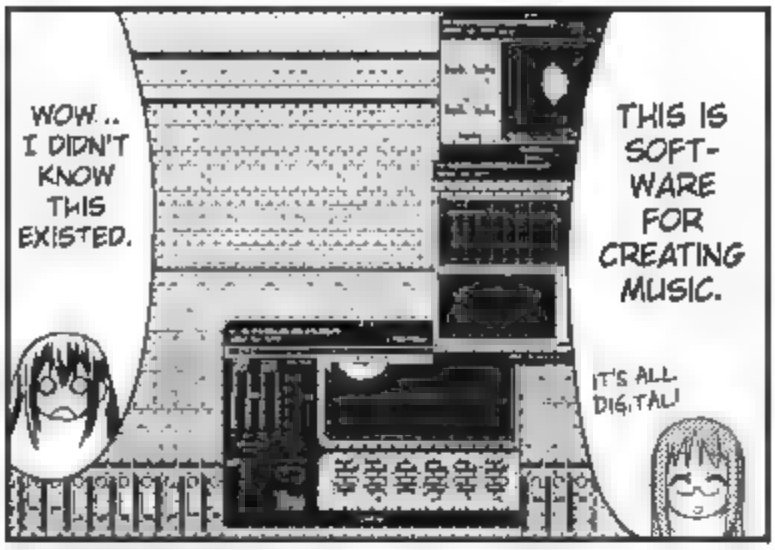
WHOA! THERE'S A SONG COM-ING OUT OF THE LAPTOP!!

WE HAVE TO STOP HER... BUT HOW?

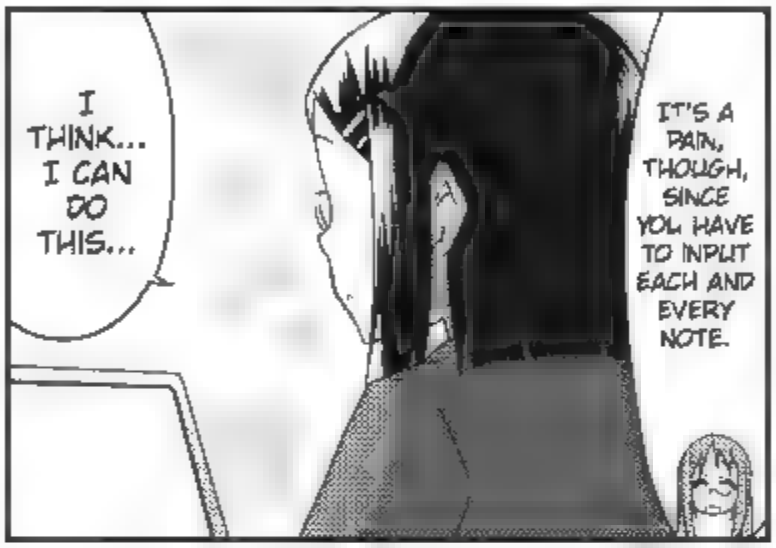
OH NO ...

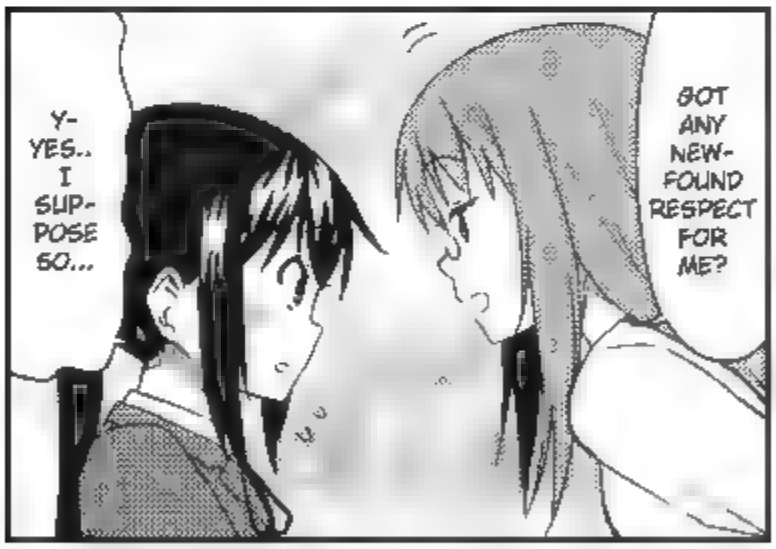
OKUDA-SAN!?

LATER!
SEE YOU TOMORROW


WOW.. I DIDN'T KNOW THIS EXISTED.
THIS IS SOFT-WARE FOR CREATING MUSIC.
IT'S ALL DIGITAL!

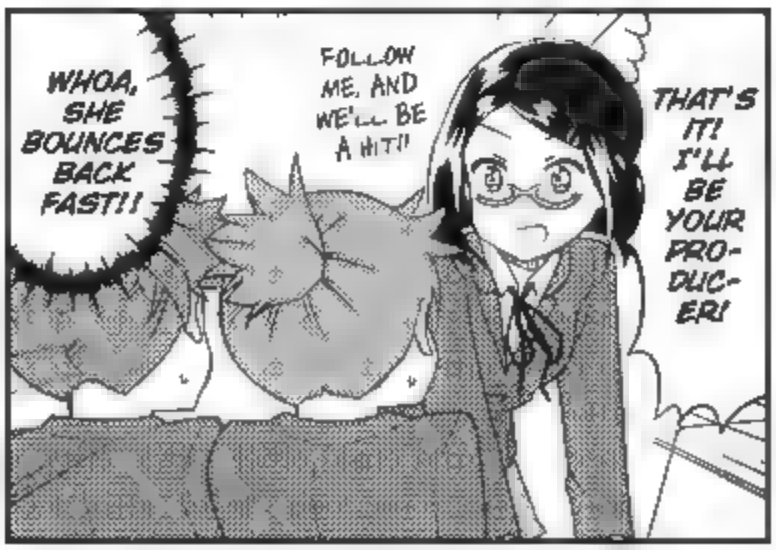
HEE HEE, THERE'S NO SET WAY TO PLAY MUSIC, SEE?
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP TODAY, SENSEI!


I THINK... I CAN DO THIS...
IT'S A PAIN, THOUGH, SINCE YOU HAVE TO INPUT EACH AND EVERY NOTE.


Y-YES.. I SUP-POSE SO...
GOT ANY NEW-FOUND RESPECT FOR ME?

YOU WON'T QUIT THE POP MUSIC CLUB, WILL YOU?
YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD STUDENT, OKUDA-SAN! YOU'RE A WHIZ AT THIS!

YOU KNOW WHAT!? NEVER MIND!!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL BE EXPECT-ING ONE HELL OF A DELI-CIOUS SNACK TOMOR-ROW!!
WE GOT OUR DRUMS!


WHOA, SHE BOUNCES BACK FAST!!
FOLLOW ME, AND WE'LL BE A HIT!!
THAT'S IT! I'LL BE YOUR PRO-DUC-ER!

Nya

THAT'S RIGHT!
IS THAT YOU PLAY-ING THE GUITAR, NAKANO-SENPAI?
Every time I look at you, my heart goes thump-thump...
... "AT LEAST"?
WELL, YOUR GUITAR-PLAYING IS GOOD, AT LEAST!
THE LYRICS ARE RATHER HUMOR-OUS.
IT'S SUPER-COOL!
THIS IS THE SONG WE PLAYED THROUGH LAST YEAR.

ALL THE MEMBERS WERE EXPERI-ENCED MUSICIANS EXCEPT FOR UI'S SISTER, YUI-SENPAI.

THIS SONG IS INCRED-IBLE... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS PLAYED BY A HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CLUB.

NOPE, IT'S MY BIG SISTER!

IS THAT UI-SENPAI DOING THE SINGING?

PIPE DOWN, JUN...

ガタ!

THUMP

AND REMEMBER, MIO-SENPAI PLAYED THE BASS!

ピッ

PUNCH

NO, THAT'S MIO-SENPAI! DOESN'T SHE ROCK?

AND THE BASS IS SUZUKI-SENPAI?

AND YUI-SENPAI LEARNED A TON WHILE SHE WAS HERE...

THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, AFTER-SCHOOL TEA TIME WAS A REALLY GREAT BAND...

HEH HEH... THE TRUTH IS...

THEN WHAT DID THE TWO OF YOU PLAY..?

ALL BEGINNERS

I...I HOPE THIS WORKS OUT...

AS WELL!

...WE'RE BOTH NEW MEM-BERS TO THE CLUB AS WELL! ☆

YEAH, I AGREE!

HUH? I'M AN ONLY CHILD.

YOU SEEM LIKE A BIG SISTER TOO, NAKANO-SENPAI.

THAT'S RIGHT.

SO YOU HAVE AN OLDER SISTER, HIRASAWA-SENPAI.

TEA, TEA, TEA.

HEY, CAN WE GET TO THE SNACKS ALREADY?

W...WHAA?

YOU'RE SO MATURE, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE THE OLDER ONE, IF ANYTHING...

I'D NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THAT FROM YOU.

THAT'S THE SISTERLY PART OF HER.

EEK!

COME ON! YOU COULD DO THE WORK YOURSELF FOR ONCE!

YOU PROBABLY JUST THINK THAT BECAUSE I'M AN UPPERCLASSMAN!

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL.

THESE TWO ARE DEFINITELY THE SPOILED ONLY CHILD.

DISAPPOINTED

HUH!?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

MY SISTER'S MUCH MORE STABLE AND MATURE THAN ME!

I LOVE THESE CREAM PUFFS.♪
SO, SHALL WE START PRACTICE?

UH...I HAVE SOMEONE LIKE AN OLDER SISTER...
DO YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS?
"LIKE AN"?

I FEEL SO SHY... I CAN'T PLAY THE DRUMS AT ALL YET.
THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE AT FIRST. IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, I'LL TRY TO TEACH YOU.

UH, I SEE... WHAT'S SHE LIKE? WHAT'S HER NAME?
HER NAME IS TSUMU...
TSUMU?

SORRY, AZUSA! I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
WHAT!?

B-BUT SHE WENT TO LIVE FAR AWAY THIS SPRING!
UH, OKAY!
D-DOES SHE HAVE A COMPLICATED FAMILY SITUATION?
MAYBE SHOULDN'T PRY ANY FURTHER

MY BAD, MY BAD
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TELL ME EARLIER! AND DON'T JUST SHOW UP TO EAT SNACKS AND DASH!!
YES, JUN-SENPAI IS DEFINITELY AN ONLY CHILD ...

I'M THE ELDEST OF FIVE.
FIVE!?
YOUR FAMILY'S HUGE!!

IT'S PROBABLY THE RELEASE DATE OF SOME MANGA OR SOMETHING!

I WONDER WHAT HER URGENT BUSINESS WAS.

SO WHY DID JUN HAVE TO LEAVE EARLY, ANYWAY...?

YES. BUT NOW MY HANDS HURT.

WELL, YOU'VE GOT THE 4-BEAT AND 8-BEAT DOWN.

AH! YOU'RE RIGHT! I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER SINCE HER HAIR'S DOWN...

OH? ISN'T THAT... SUZUKI-SENPAI?

NOW'S MY CHANCE!

WELL DONE, AZUSA.

HEH HEH

SORRY, JUN. WERE YOU WAITING LONG?

AHA!

WHAT'S SHE DOING ALL DRESSED UP LIKE THAT?

RUB... HEAD...

HRRR6...

WHAT IS IT?

...?

WHAAAAA!?

IT TOOK YOU FOREVER, AT-CHAN!

SORRY, SORRY

NO, NOT ME!

RUB

RUB な で

な で

?

WAIT, ARE YOU TAKING PIC-TURES!?

ISN'T IT THRILLING, TRAILING SOMEONE LIKE THIS?

W-W-WOW, I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE SOMETHING SO...STEAMY...

I SEE... SO SHE WAS MEETING UP WITH HER BOY-FRIEND!

SUMI-RE...

UM, IS IT RIGHT FOR US TO BE DOING THIS? IT SEEMS UNFAIR TO JUN-SENPAI...

W-WELL, WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE LIKE THAT. SHE DID SAY SHE HAD A BROTH-ER.

I HAD NO IDEA JUN HAD A BOY-FRIEND...

TRUE... WE SHOULD PROB-ABLY STOP NOW.

LOOK, THEY'RE GOING INTO AN APART-MENT.

AH!

I SEE, SO HE MIGHT JUST BE HER BIG BROTH...

SO SHE'S NOT AN ONLY CHILD ...?

ビクッ PUNCH

AN APART-MENT!?

BOY-FRIEND STATUS CON-FIRMED!

ぎゅ SQUEEZE

I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT YOU WERE ON A DATE... YOUR HAIR'S DOWN, AND YOU'RE ALL DRESSED UP.

DRESSED UP? MY HAIR'S TOTALLY UNRULY WHEN IT'S DOWN, SO I ONLY LET MY FAMILY SEE!

AZU-SA!? YOU GUYS!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

WHAT ABOUT YOU!? WHY ARE YOU SKIPPING PRACTICE TO GO ON A DATE!?

YOU'RE FROM THE POP MUSIC CLUB? I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU FROM JUN.

I'M ATSUSHI, HER BIG BRO

YOU TWO MUST BE VERY CLOSE.

...DATE? THIS IS MY BROTH-ER.

HI.

WAIT, HE REALLY IS YOUR BROTH-ER!?

S-SAYS WHO!? GET OFF ME, AT-CHAN!!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS HANGING ON ME.

AT-CHAN...?

I'M NO GOOD AT BASS YET, SO I'VE BEEN GETTING LES-SONS FROM AT-CHAN.

HE PLAYS BASS IN COLLEGE

AHH! A SECRET TRAIN-ING PRO-GRAM!

I FEEL CLOSER TO YOU

ARRRGH!!

I'VE NEVER WISHED HARDER FOR THE GROUND TO OPEN AND JUST ENGULF ME!!

ARRRGH!! NOW YOU'VE RUINED MY CAREFULLY CULTIVATED AURA OF PERFECT GENIUS!!

IT'S NOT MY STYLE TO WORK HARD AT STUFF!

WE'VE NEVER SEEN YOU THAT WAY.

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

HEE HEE HEE. .

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW YOU WITH YOUR BROTH-ER!!

THE NEXT DAY

WELL, IT'S NICE THAT YOU'VE PICKED OUT YOUR ROLES...

YOU'RE ALL FIRST-YEAR MEM-BERS, BASI-CALLY!

WHAT'S THE PROB-LEM?

UGH.

ISN'T IT USUALLY THE GUITAR-ST OR BASSIST WHO SINGS?

...BUT WHO'S GOING TO SING?

HANG ON! THAT'S IMPOR-TANT. YOU CAN'T JUST COME UP WITH A BAND NAME ON THE SPOT!

YOU CAN CALL THE BAND THE "GREEN LEAF GIRLS"!

IT'S OFFICIAL

WHAT!? WHY!? YOU HEARD HOW BAD MY SING-ING WAS!!

SUGGES-TION! I THINK AZUSA SHOULD SING.

OH NO!! I THINK THEY LIKE IT!!

THAT MAKES NO SENSE !!

JUN-CHAN

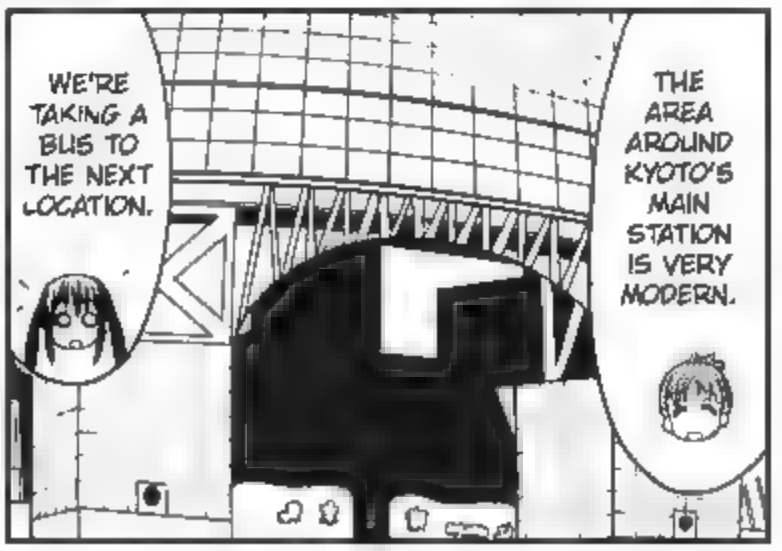
WELL, YOU SAW ME AT AN EMBARRASS-ING MOMENT, SO TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY!

WEIRD, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE WAY MORE INTO THE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP, JUN.
NOT ANOTHER VEHICLE

AHH, WE'RE FINALLY HERE!
TO-DAY'S THE START OF OUR FIELD TRIP.

SIGN: KYOTO

YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD GRAND-MA.
I JUST WANT TO GET TO THE INN AND ENJOY THE HOT SPRING.


WE'RE TAKING A BUS TO THE NEXT LOCATION.
THE AREA AROUND KYOTO'S MAIN STATION IS VERY MODERN.

YAY! MAKE MINE BLACK!

I'LL GET STARTED ON THE TEA.

SORRY WE'RE LATE!

MEAN-WHILE, BACK AT SCHOOL

CREAK

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT ISN'T IT USUALLY THE TEACH-ER'S JOB TO SCOLD PEOPLE FOR EATING IN THE CLUB-ROOM?

OH, RIGHT. THE SENPAIS ARE ON THEIR FIELD TRIP STARTING TODAY.

THAT'S RIGHT.

...EH? ARE YOU ALL ALONE?

BLACK TEA... WITH TWO SUGAR CUBES?

TAP TAP カタカタ TAP TAP

WHAT WILL YOU HAVE, OKUDA-SAN?

WELL, I DON'T HAVE MY OWN CLASS THIS YEAR.

AND YOU DIDN'T GET TO BE A CHAPER-ONE?

I FEEL LIKE I'M SEEING SOME-THING MIND-BLOW-ING...

YOU'RE WELCOME.

TAPPA カタ TAP

THANK YOU.

HUH!? UH, OKAY!

AND IT'S NOT LIKE I GOT DENIED MY OWN HOME CLASS DUE TO INCOM-PETENCE, IN CASE YOU WERE WONDER-ING!!

UM, SEN-SEI?

STILL DUTI-FULLY PUTS IT ON

DARN, I STILL CAN'T HELP BUT MOVE MY HANDS AND FEET AT THE SAME TIME.

GOOD POINT. I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO DO BUT WATCH FROM THE WINGS...

IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME: WHAT SHOULD I DO DUR-ING LIVE SHOWS?

YES?

IF THAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM, YOU SHOULD WEAR THESE!

NO, THAT WASN'T THE POINT OF MY QUES-TION..

OR WAIT! ARE YOU SAYING YOU'D LIKE TO BE ON STAGE WITH THEM?

UM.. THANK YOU. DOES EVERYONE WEAR THEIR GYM OUTFITS DURING PRAC-TICE?

I'LL DE-CLINE.

TAP

TAP

I'VE GOT IT! I'LL MAKE YOU A COS-TUME, AND YOU CAN BE THE BACKUP DANCER!

IS SHE REALLY THE CLUB SUPER-VISOR ...?

NO, IT'S FOR MY SAKE!!

I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE JUMPING OFF OF THAT.

THAT STAGE AT KIYOMIZU WAS BREATH-TAKING.

FI-NALLY, WE'RE AT THE INN.

I'M TIRED OF SIGHT-SEE NG.

OOH, IT'S SO PRETTY IN HERE!

I WAS IMAGIN-ING HER WITH AN AFRO OR SOME-THING.

SPLASH

IT'S WEIRD, JUN-CHAN'S HAIR ISN'T ANY-WHERE NEAR AS UNRULY AS SHE SAID.

COME ON, YOU CAN AT LEAST CHANGE OUT OF YOUR UNI-FORM.

I'M GOING TO SLEEP! I WON'T MOVE ANOTHER INCH TODAY!

... WHAT MY HAIR'S LIKE IN THE MORN-ING!

WELL, YOU'VE GOT NICE HAIR, SO YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND...

TH-THANKS!

YOU'RE UP NEXT IN THE BATH.

IT WAS GREAT

THAT SOUNDS USEFUL.

I KNOW WHAT THE DAY'S WEATHER WILL BE JUST BY OBSERV-ING HOW EXPLOSIVE MY HAIR IS!

SHE'S SO CONFLICT-ED.

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

WHAT A SHAME. SHE WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT THAT BATH.

Please come back soon. I cannot handle Yamanaka-sensei on my own.

HA HA

How is the field trip? I am being harassed by Yama naka-sensei.

YEP. GOOD-NIGHT.

LIGHTS OUT. ALL READY?

WHA—!? Y-YOU'RE AWAKE!?

FLINCH

HEY, YOU GOT TEXTS FROM THE OTHERS! I DIDN'T GET ANY!!

HUH?

FLASH FLASH

OH... MAYBE I SHOULD TEXT SUMIRE AND OKUDA-SAN...BUT I STILL FEEL A BIT SELF-CON-SCIOUS...

YOU TOO, UI!?

IT'S TRUE! LUCKY!

THEY SENT ME MESSAGES ALREADY!

KNOCK IT OFF!!

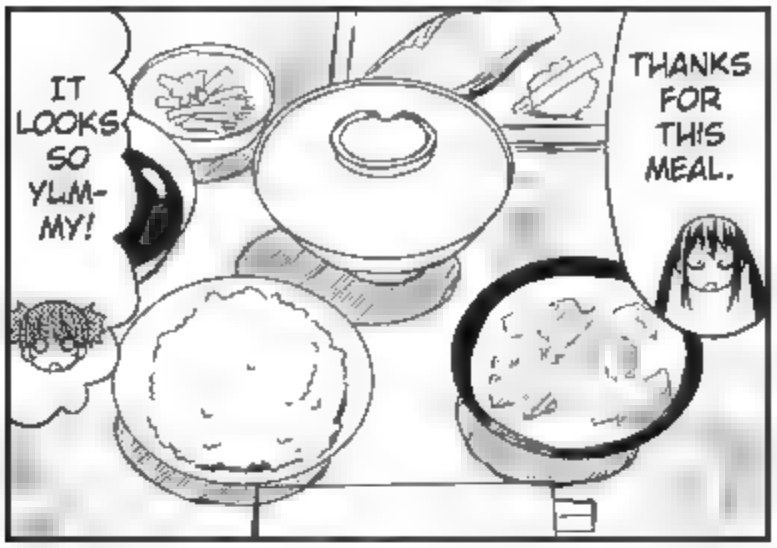
GLOMP

THAT'S OUR CAPTAIN AZUSA!

CAP-TAIN AZUSA IS QUITE THE POPU-LAR LADY!!

SHHHHHHH

MMMM


IT LOOKS SO YUM-MY!
THANKS FOR THIS MEAL.

MM... WHAT TIME IS IT...?

MY MOM SAID THE EXACT SAME THING WHEN WE WENT ON VACA-TION.
IT'S SO MOVING
HERE'S BREAK-FAST, AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO COOK IT MYSELF...

I HAVE TO TURN ON THE RICE COOKER AND WAKE MOM UP...
?
WHAT!? SEVEN O'CLOCK!? I SLEPT IN!!

I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD RAISE SUCH A LARGE DAUGH-TER.
I WISH I COULD BE UI'S DAUGH-TER! I BET SHE'D MAKE ME A DELICIOUS BREAK-FAST EVERY-DAY!

OH... RIGHT...
UI... WE'RE ON VA-CATION, REMEM-BER ?
YAWWN.

DIDN'T TAKE YOU TWO LONG TO GET WORKED UP..
EEK! DRILL SERGEANT MAMA!
STOP THAT, JUN! DON'T CROSS YOUR CHOP-STICKS!
HEE
HEE

WHO ARE YOU!?
POOF
POOF
TO-DAY'S HUMID-ITY IS 90%! THAT MEANS RAIN!!

I WAS HOPING I COULD GET TO KNOW OKUDA-SAN BETTER WHILE THE SENPAI'S WERE GONE. OH WELL...

?

TWO DAYS LATER

SO THE SENPAI'S COME BACK TODAY.

THAT'S RIGHT.

OKUDA-SAN! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE DROPPED THE SUF-FIXES!?

WAIT, I KNOW!

I DON'T MIND, I SUP-POSE...

TEK TEK

.....
.....

TH-THEN... HERE GOES... N...N... NAO...

THAT'S RIGHT

I-IT SURE SEEMED LIKE THEY HAD FUN IN KYOTO!!

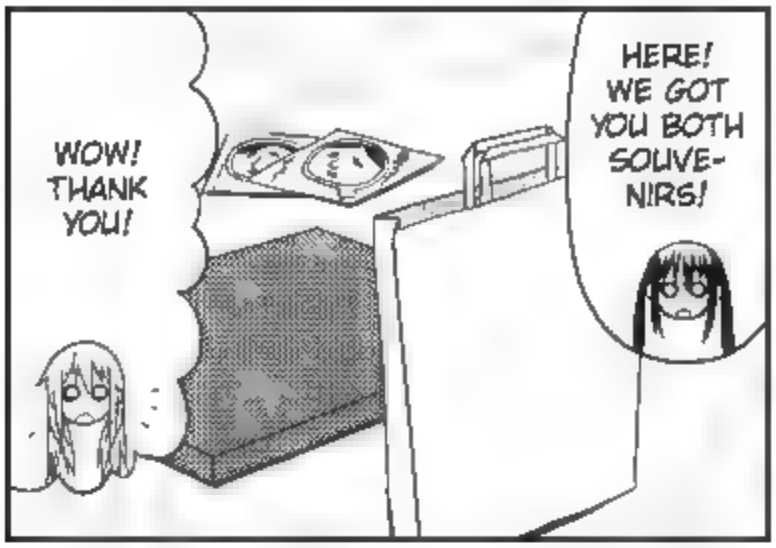
I-I DIDN'T MEAN MY LAST NAME!!

ビクッ FLINCH!

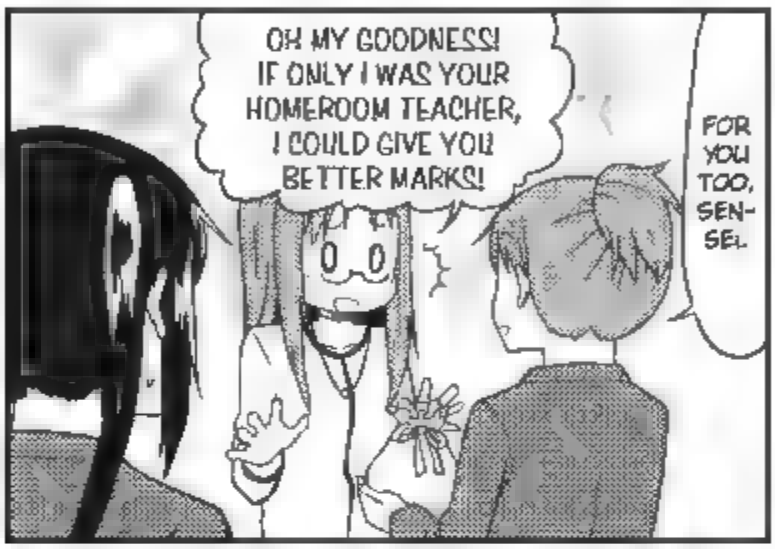
SAITOU!!

TEK TEK TEK

...I CAN'T GET A CON-VER-SA-TION GO-ING...


WOW! THANK YOU!
HERE! WE GOT YOU BOTH SOUVE-NIRS!

OH!
SUMIRE! OKUDA-SAN!


OH MY GOODNESS! IF ONLY I WAS YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER, I COULD GIVE YOU BETTER MARKS!
FOR YOU TOO, SEN-SEI.

YES WE ARE!
YOU'RE BACK!!
WERE YOU TWO LONELY WHILE WE WERE GONE?

MIO-SENPAI AND MUGI-SENPAI GOT ME DECENT GIFTS, THOUGH.
ACTU-ALLY, I NEVER GOT MORE THAN A GUITAR PICK FROM YUI-SENPAI.
WAIT, DO YOU MEAN...

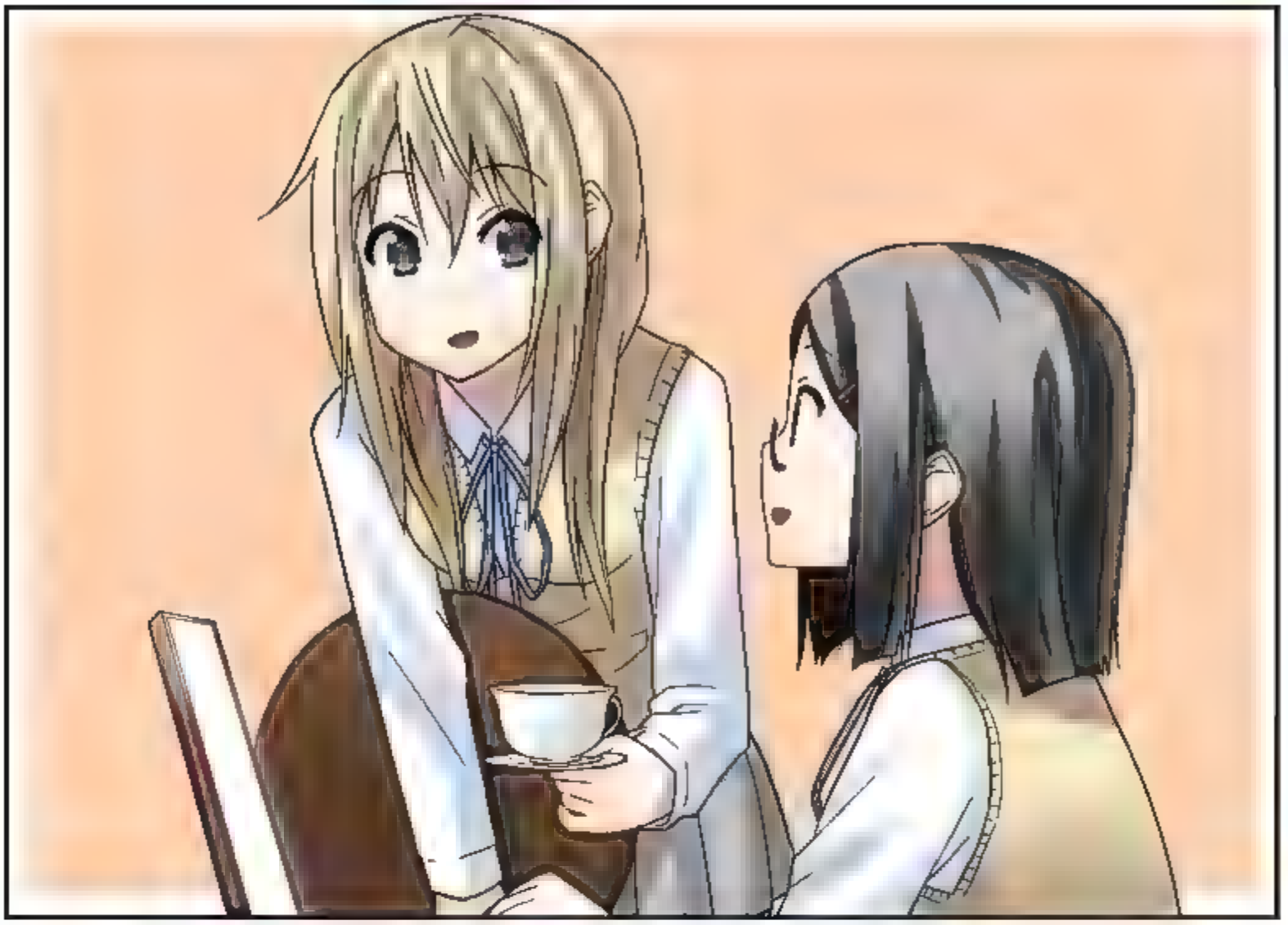
AWW, YOU'RE NO FUN
SHE CALLED ME BY MY FIRST NAME!!
NOT REALLY. SUMIRE WAS WITH ME...

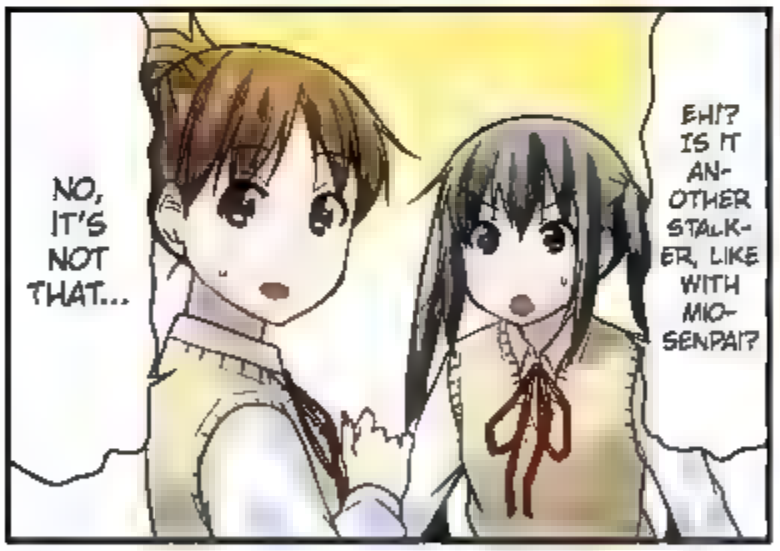
AAAAGH!!
...THIS PICK? THE ONE CARE-FULLY TIED TO YOUR BAG?

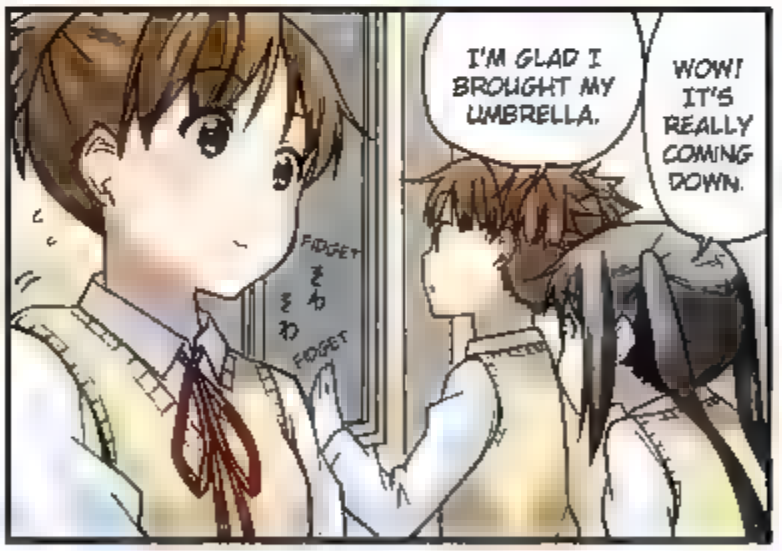
SHE'S GOT SOME PROBLEMS.
WELL, I WAS LONELY WITH-OUT UI-CHAN'S WONDERFUL SNACKS.♡

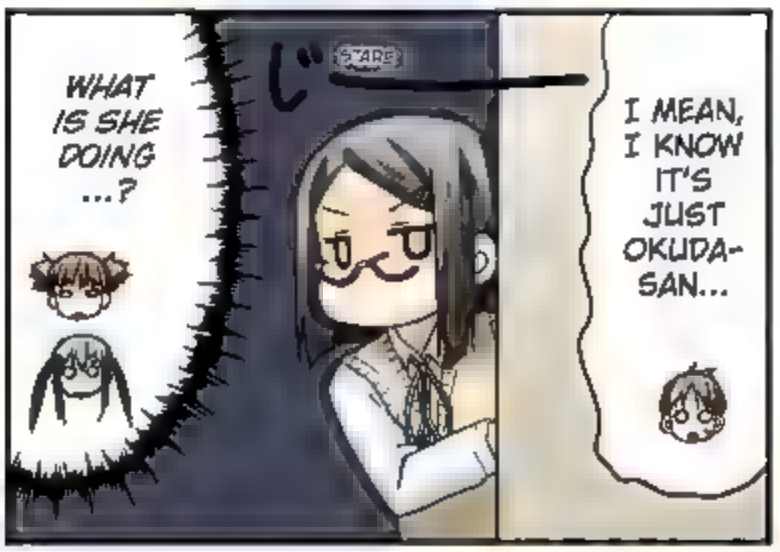
HUM D
DAY

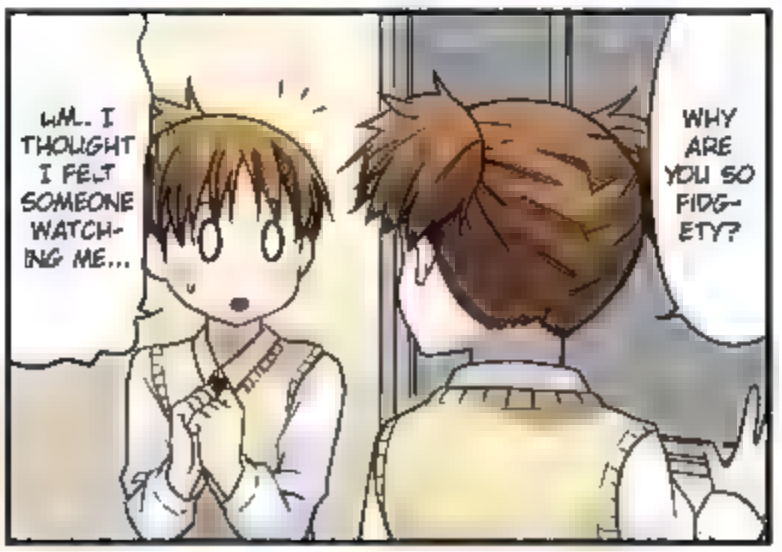
STORMY
DAY

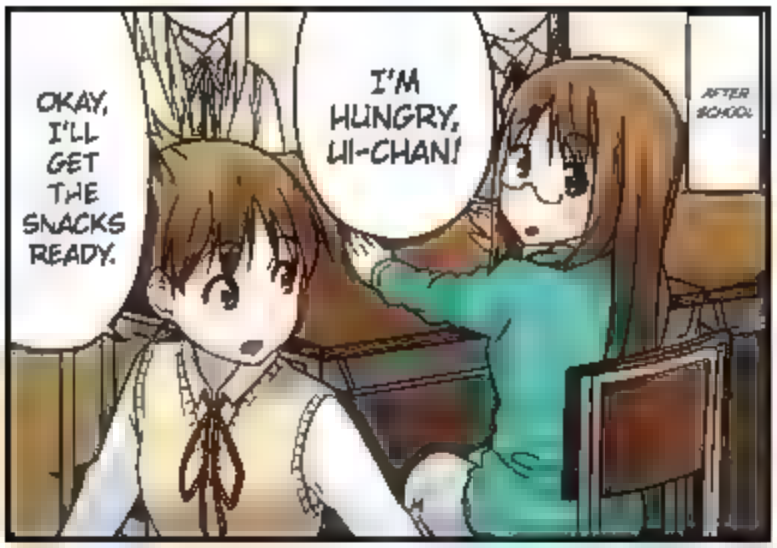


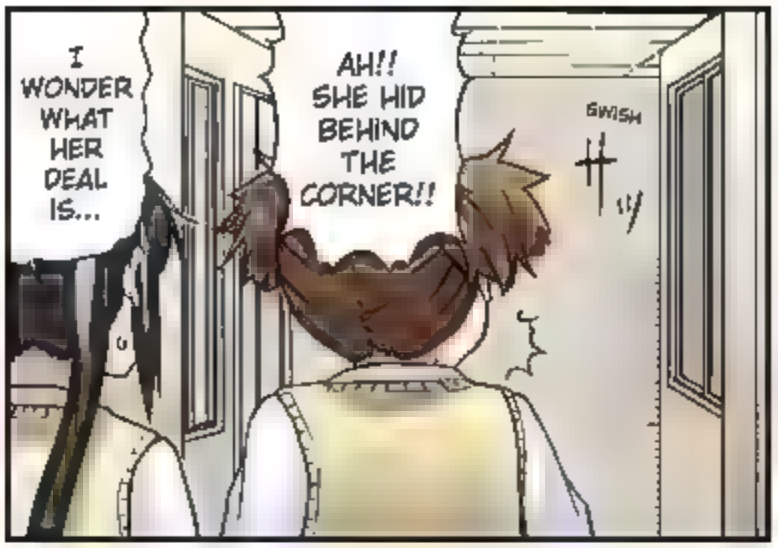

NO, IT'S NOT THAT...
EH!? IS IT AN-OTHER STALK-ER, LIKE WITH MIO-SENPAI?

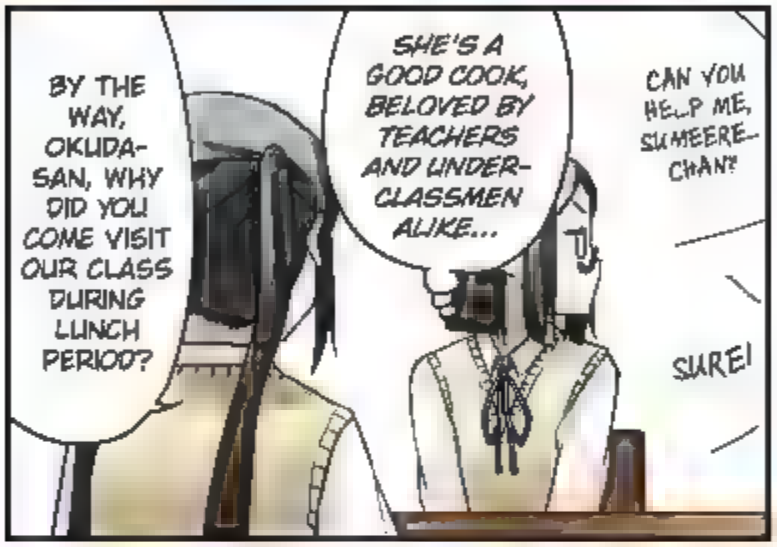

I'M GLAD I BROUGHT MY UMBRELLA.
WOW! IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
FIDGET
そわそわ
FIDGET

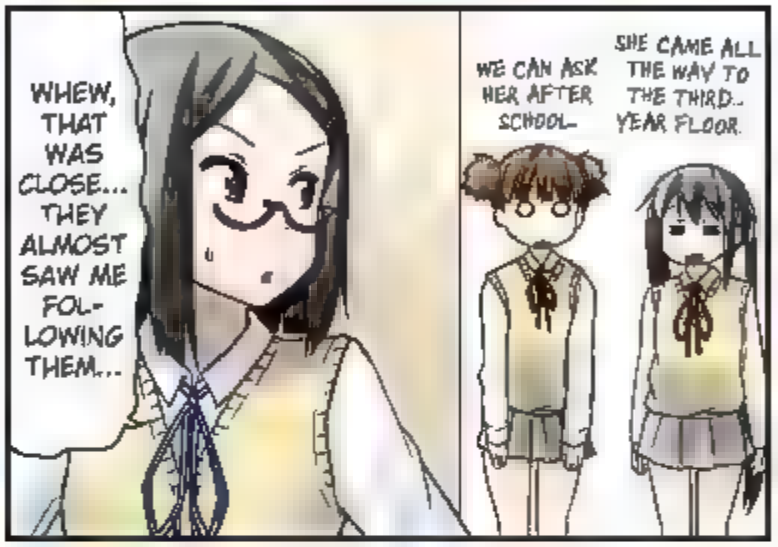

WHAT IS SHE DOING ...?
STARE
I MEAN, I KNOW IT'S JUST OKUDA-SAN...

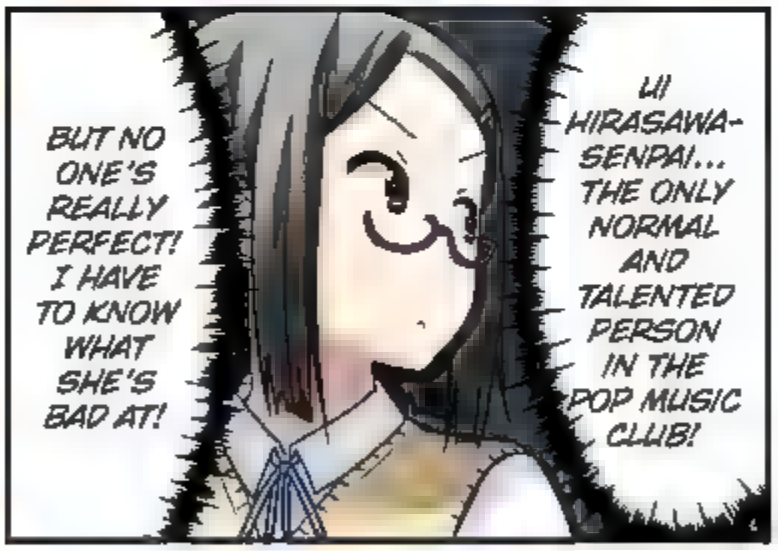

UM.. I THOUGHT I FELT SOMEONE WATCH-ING ME...
WHY ARE YOU SO FIDG-ETY?

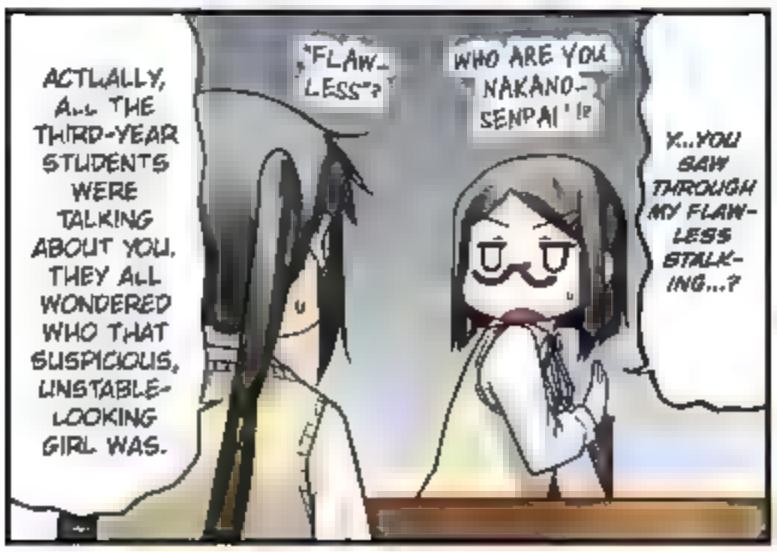

AFTER SCHOOL
I'M HUNGRY, UI-CHAN!
OKAY, I'LL GET THE SNACKS READY.

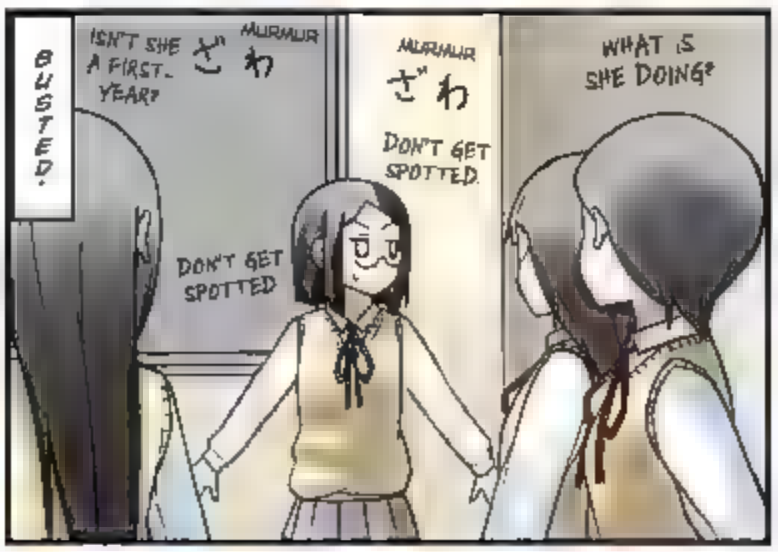

I WONDER WHAT HER DEAL IS...
AH!! SHE HID BEHIND THE CORNER!!
GWISH


BY THE WAY, OKUDA-SAN, WHY DID YOU COME VISIT OUR CLASS DURING LUNCH PERIOD?
SHE'S A GOOD COOK, BELOVED BY TEACHERS AND UNDER-CLASSMEN ALIKE...
CAN YOU HELP ME, SUMEERE-CHAN?
SURE!


WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE... THEY ALMOST SAW ME FOL-LOWING THEM...
WE CAN ASK HER AFTER SCHOOL-
SHE CAME ALL THE WAY TO THE THIRD-YEAR FLOOR.


BUT NO ONE'S REALLY PERFECT! I HAVE TO KNOW WHAT SHE'S BAD AT!
UI HIRASAWA-SENPAI... THE ONLY NORMAL AND TALENTED PERSON IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB!


ACTUALLY, ALL THE THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU. THEY ALL WONDERED WHO THAT SUSPICIOUS, UNSTABLE-LOOKING GIRL WAS.
"FLAW-LESS"?
WHO ARE YOU NAKANO-SENPAI'!?
Y...YOU SAW THROUGH MY FLAW-LESS STALK-ING...?


BUSTED.
ISN'T SHE A FIRST-YEAR?
ざわ MURMUR
DON'T GET SPOTTED
ざわ MURMUR
DON'T GET SPOTTED
WHAT IS SHE DOING?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?

RIGHT, AZUSA-SAN?

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS THESE DAYS ARE SCARY...

EH? WHY?

THE TRUTH IS, I'VE BEEN OBSERVING HIRSAWA-SENPAI FOR A WHILE.

OH, GOOD POINT... I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING.

IT JUST SEEMS LIKE HIRASAWA-SENPAI CAN DO ANYTHING WELL, SO I WONDERED IF THERE WAS AN EXCEPTION TO THAT RULE.

BECAUSE I WANTED TO KNOW HER WEAK-NESS!!

AND YOU CAN'T HANDLE HUMID-ITY.

AZUSA'S PRETTY BAD AT SINGING.

イラッ GRRR

EEEK, SCAWY! :D

AND SENSEI'S AFWAID OF GHOSTS! ♡

...I'M SORRY, MY CHOICE OF WORDS WAS POOR.

ARE YOU GONNA BEAT HER UP?

EH?

HOW ABOUT... UI'S WORST ENEMY IS LIFE WITHOUT HER SISTER!

YAY! ♡

THANKS FOR WAITING I WHIPPED UP A STRAWBERRY MOUSSE TODAY.

LOOK, IT'S BIG SISTER!

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE STAINING YOUR PILLOW WITH TEARS EVERY NIGHT AS YOU CRY YOUR LONELY SELF TO SLEEP NOW THAT YUI-SENPAI'S ON HER OWN, WOULD YOU?

WHY DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE OF HER?

すすすす

SLIDE

IT WAS A SEMINAR ON FINDING SOMETHING YOU'RE BAD AT!

SO, WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WE STILL TALK ON THE PHONE FROM TIME TO TIME.

I'M FINE. IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.

WHAT!? THAT'S NOT TRUE! THERE'S LOTS OF STUFF I CAN'T HANDLE.

OKUDA-SAN THINKS YOU DO EVERYTHING PERFECTLY.

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!

I'M PERFECTLY FINE!

TUG TUG

WE HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME!

FOR ME, IT'S GHOSTS!

THAT WAS A TEXTBOOK TOPIC-SWITCHER IF I'VE EVER HEARD ONE.

I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS HEADING SOMEWHERE STRANGE.

W-WELL, SHALL WE GET TO PRACTICING?

I DUNNO, THAT SEEMED TOO NATURAL TO BE FAKED.

I'M JUST KIDDING!

WOW... SHE'S EVEN GOT A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR.

OOH

SO I PUT TOGETHER A FEW SONGS.

JUST THE CHORDS.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT UI THAT MAKES YOU SO CURIOUS, OKUDA-SAN?

OOH, SHE GOT IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

ジャラーン

JAAANG

DOES IT GO LIKE THIS?

THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT?

WHAT'S THIS? DO YOU LOOK UP TO HER? IS IT LOVE?

THE FACT THAT SHE DOES EVERYTHING WELL IS THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF ME...

A ROBOT!?

Azusa-chan!

YOU'RE LIKE A ROBOT, HIRASAWA-SENPAI.

ENOUGH TO BRING YOU TO TEARS!?

BLOOD

I'M INCREDIBLY, INCREDIBLY JEALOUS.

I'LL WAIT UNTIL THE RAIN EASES UP— WE'LL BOTH GET SOAKED IF WE TRY THAT.

THANKS, THOUGH

WANT TO SHARE MINE?

GOOD PRAC-TICE, EVERY-ONE!

I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

HUH? YOU'RE STILL HERE, OKUDA-SAN?

SIGH... I'M SUCH A DITZ...

THANK YOU, SEE YOU LATER.

GO ON AHEAD, I'LL WASH THE DISHES FIRST.

OH! IN THAT CASE, USE THIS ONE!

UM, YES...I FORGOT MY UM-BRELLA, SO...

IT SURE WOULD SUCK NOT TO HAVE AN UMBRELLA RIGHT NOW.

WOW, LOOK AT THE RAIN! 'TIS THE SEASON...

FGHH

DID... YOU FOR-GET IT?

NOW WHERE'S MINE... HUH?

RUSTLE

I ALWAYS CARRY AROUND TWO: ONE FOR ME, AND ONE IN CASE A FRIEND NEEDS ONE.

...DID YOU FORGET YOURS?

THE RAIN'S NOT LETTING UP.

FSHHH

HERE WE GO.

I WAS SO FOCUSED ON BRINGING AN EXTRA UMBRELLA IN CASE ANYONE FORGOT THEIRS...

... THAT I FORGOT TO BRING MY OWN...

REALLY? BUT ISN'T IT TIME FOR THE SCHOOL TO CLOSE?

SHOULD WE GO BACK TO THE ROOM FOR A BIT?

GRIN

GRIN

NUMMY

AND NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, WHEN I SAW SENSE ENJOYING HER MOUSSE ..

..IT MADE ME FORGET TO EAT SOME MYSELF.

IT'S RAIN! AN ACT OF GOD! THEY CAN'T BLAME US FOR THAT!

AH...

TUG

PFFT!

HUH? IN THAT CASE, WHO ATE MY PORTION?

HIRASAWA-SENPAI'S JUST A NORMAL GIRL LIKE THE REST OF US...

HOW ABOUT THAT...

WHOA! OKUDA-SAN'S LAUGHING!

A RARE SIGHT!

HEE HEE HEE

IF IT DOESN'T LET UP SOON, WE'LL NEVER GET HOME
OOH! WE COULD STAY DRY IN THIS!

THANK YOU.
DRINK UP. I MADE YOU SOME NICE GREEN TEA TO WARM YOU UP.

IT'S TIME TO LOCK UP!
ガラ
KSHUNK
HEY! WHO'S STILL HERE!?

YOU MANAGED TO MAKE ALL THOSE SONGS OUT OF NOTHING.
FOR WHAT?
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE REALLY GOT TALENT, OKUDA-SAN!

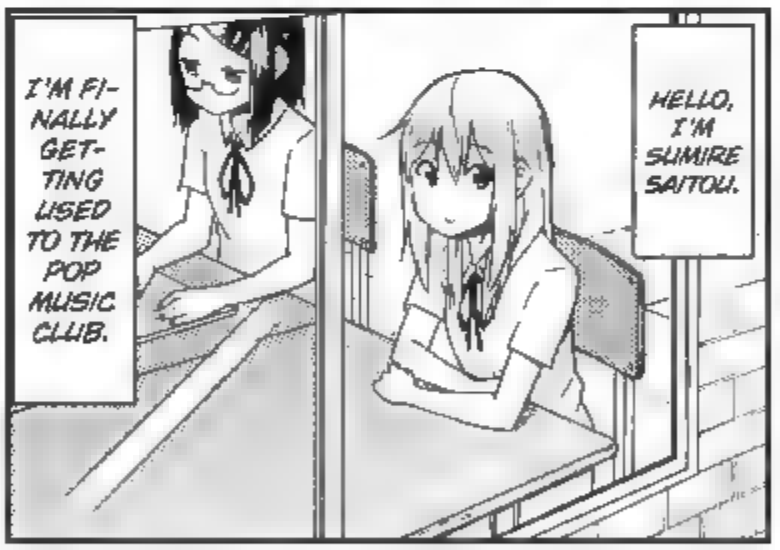
GO ON HO—

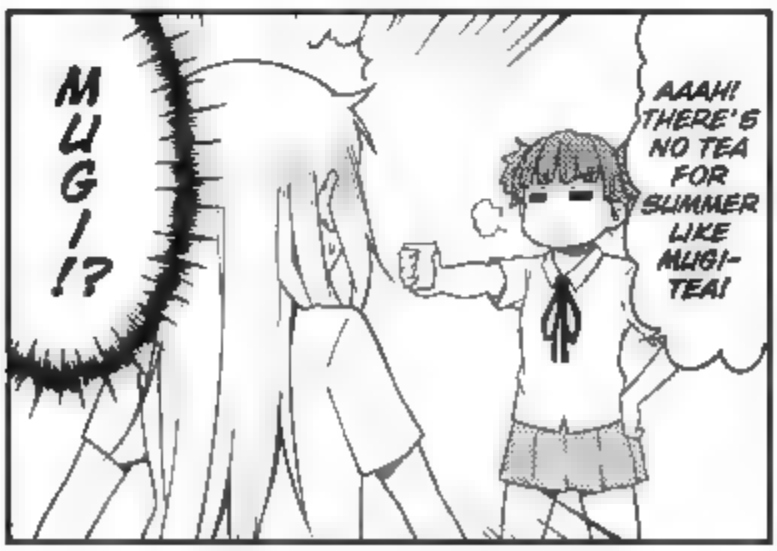
OH...I GUESS SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT WHAT I WAS SAYING DURING CLUB TIME...
I WISH I COULD DO THAT. I'M TERRIBLE WHEN IT COMES TO AD-LIBBING.

HIRA-SAWA-SENPAI'S WEIRDER THAN I THOUGHT.
SEN-SEI!?
BLUB
BLUB
GLUH... GHOST ...

WHY ARE YOU RAISING YOUR HANDS!?
I SURRENDER
I CANNOT COMPETE WITH YOU, HIRASAWA-SENPA.

BUT I GET THE SENSE I'M FOR-GET-TING SOME-THING...
GLUG
GLUG
I'M NOT GETTING ANY-WHERE WITH THE DRUMS, BUT I'M STILL HAVING PLENTY OF FUN.


I'M FI-NALLY GET-TING USED TO THE POP MUSIC CLUB.
HELLO, I'M SUMIRE SAITOU.


MUGI!?
AAAH! THERE'S NO TEA FOR SUMMER LIKE MUGI-TEA!

S-SURE, RIGHT AWAY!
UGH, IT'S SO HOT... CAN YOU GET US SOME COLD DRINKS, SU-MEERE?

N-N-NOTHING! I'M FINE!!

WHAT'S UP, SUMEERE-CHAN?

I ONLY CAME TO THE POP MUSIC CLUB TO BRING HOME THE TEA SET!!

THAT'S RIGHT!!

I NEED COOLING!

I KNOW! I CAN TAKE IT HOME DURING SUMMER BREAK!

A-AT ANY RATE, I NEED TO RETRIEVE THAT TEA SET...

HAVE I BEEN DEFYING THE MISTRESS' ORDERS FOR THREE WHOLE MONTHS!?

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN... THREE MONTHS!?

AHHH

...BUT...

...I COULD BE KICKED OUT OF THE KOTOBUKI FAMILY SERVICE AND LEFT ON THE STREET.

AT THIS RATE...

I JUST CAN'T DEPRIVE THEM OF THEIR BELOVED TEA SET!!

IT'S SO YUMMY! ♪

HMM, MAYBE I SET THE A/C TOO LOW.

SUMIRE'S SHAKING FOR SOME REASON...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

EEEK!!

H-HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT!?

ピクッ

FLINCH

WATCHING YOU SERVE US TEA LIKE THAT REMINDS ME OF MUGI-SENPAI.

WHAT A SIMPLE AND OBVIOUS REASON!!

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

ドキ

ドキ

B-BE-CAUSE... YOUR ADDRESS AND MUGI-CHAN'S ARE THE SAME.

ドキ

BA-BUMP

ドキ

BA-BUMP

TRUE...BUT SHE WAS HAPPY TO DO IT.

HUH? WASN'T MUGI-SENPAI USUALLY THE ONE BEING SERVED?

SU-MEERE-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG!?

DRIP

PLUS... HUH?

DRIP

DRIP

WHAT IF SHE WAS A SERVANT FOR MUGI-SENPAI'S FAMILY OR SOMETHING?

TH-THEY'RE SO SHARP. BUT THEY WON'T KNOW FOR SURE IF I DON'T TELL THEM!!

SU-MEERE-CHAN'S REALLY GOOD AT FIXING TEA.

WHA... IS THIS MY FAULT?

STARE

じ——

SHE'S TELLING THEM MY DARKEST SECRETS!!

EH?

WOW, HOW DID YOU KNOW? BINGO!

I-I'M SORRY, FORGET THAT! IT'S A PER-SONAL THING...

DO YOU REALLY CALL TSU-MUGI-SAN "ONEE-CHAN"?

I'LL BE FINE.. S-SORRY ABOUT THIS.

ARE YOU OKAY?

MUNCH MUNCH もぐ もぐ

GOOD POINT...

? MUNCH もぐ もぐ MUNCH

I DUNNO. WE COULD BE ACCOMPLICES IF WE'RE USING HER TEA SET...

OH... FINALLY, THE MYSTERY IS EXPLAINED ...

HNG! HNG!

UH, MISTRESS?

ACTUALLY, MISTRESS TSUMUGI ORDERED ME TO RETRIEVE HER TEA SET FROM THE CLUB-ROOM...

YEAH!

TH-THEY'RE SIDING WITH ME...

IF YOU DO NEED TO APOL-OGIZE TO HER, WE'LL DO IT WITH YOU!

WOW, REALLY? I DIDN'T THINK MUGI-SENPAI WAS LIKE THAT.

BUT INSTEAD OF OBEYING HER ORDERS, I'VE BECOME A FULL MEMBER OF THE POP MUSIC CLUB... SHE'S GOING TO BE FURIOUS WITH ME.

CAN'T I HAVE A SECOND TO SOAK IN MY EMO-TION!?

LEAN

SO, DO YOU REALLY CALL TSUMUGI-SAN, "ONEE-CHAN"?

"ONEE-CHAN"!?

N-NO! TRUST ME, ONEE-CHAN ISN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL!!

SHE HAD NO TIME TO HANG OUT WITH OTHER CHILDREN.

THE MISTRESS WAS GIVEN SPECIAL EDUCATION FROM A YOUNG AGE.

I'VE LIVED IN THE KOTOBUKI HOUSE FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

WE PLAYED TOGETHER ALL THE TIME.

HER ONLY FRIEND WAS ME, SINCE WE LIVED IN THE SAME HOUSE.

BUT AS A LITTLE GIRL, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT. I LOOKED UP TO HER AS A BIG SISTER.

THE SAITOUS HAVE BEEN SERVING THE KOTOBUKIS SINCE BEFORE I WAS BORN.

I'D GO OUT TO THE STORE TO SMUGGLE IN SOME MANGA FOR HER, SINCE SHE WAS FORBIDDEN TO READ IT HERSELF.

UM, YES

DID YOU BUY ME A MANGA!?

SHE WAS ALWAYS VERY INTERESTED IN HOW NORMAL CHILDREN LIVED...

WHY IS YOUR NAME "SAITOU"?

DOES THAT MEAN... YOU'RE A FOREIGNER WHO WAS BORN IN JAPAN?

SO THAT'S HOW MUGI-SENPAI TURNED OUT THE WAY SHE DID..

AND SOME ARE EVEN BETWEEN TWO GIRLS!

KICK KICK

SIGH. I GUESS EVERYONE MUST HAVE ROMANCES LIKE THESE...

NOW I REALLY WANT TO KNOW!

I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE TRUTH.

UMM, I THINK THE KOTOBUKI FAMILY BROUGHT MY ENTIRE FAMILY HERE FROM AUSTRALIA AND CHANGED OUR NAME...

I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS... IS IT MY FAULT?

I KNOW! LET'S RUN AWAY TOGETHER! WE CAN LIVE A FREE LIFE!

...MY FATHER EXPLAINED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR FAMILIES.

AROUND THE TIME I TURNED TWELVE...

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU DIDN'T LIKE THIS.

I CHANGED MY MIND!!

ONEE-CHAN! I THINK WE SHOULD FOLLOW OUR FATHERS' LEAD! AT LEAST UNTIL COLLEGE!

SU-MEERE-CHAN...

THAT WAS THE TIME I REALIZED I PROBABLY COULDN'T CALL HER "ONEE-CHAN" ANY LONGER.

R-RE-ALLY? THEN I'LL CALL YOU...

I'LL JUST TRY TO CALL YOU "MISTRESS" IN PUBLIC...

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER WITH THOSE SILLY RULES.

AW, BOO...I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE, ONEE-CHAN...

BUT...

I THINK SUMIRE WILL DO!!

S... SAITOU!!

WHAT!?

I MEAN, I'M NOT GOING TO THE HIGH SCHOOL MY PARENTS ARE LOOKING AT!

YES, MA'AM.

TAKE IT HOME BEFORE THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR STARTS

WHEN MUGI-CHAN'S GROUP GRADUATED...

EH!? IS THAT WHAT THIS WAS ABOUT!?

WHAT BEAUTIFUL SISTERLY LOVE, UNFETTERED BY ANY BONDS...

EH?

UM, SENSEI... CAN WE LEAVE THE TEA SET HERE?

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND! I'LL TRY TO ASK IF IT'S OKAY TO LEAVE THE TEA SET HERE!

.....
.....

"MY LITTLE SISTER'S JOINING NEXT YEAR, AND SHE'LL END UP USING IT FOR HERSELF..."

SU-MEERE-CHAN...

I REALLY DO LOVE HAVING TEA HERE WITH ALL OF YOU.

UM... IT'S OKAY, I DON'T CARE...

I WAS GOING TO, BUT THEN SUMIRE-CHAN STARTED CRYING!!

SO YOU KNEW THE ENTIRE STORY ALREADY! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US!?

WHA—?

IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE TEA SET HOME.

EH?
I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOU TWO! ♡
I HAD NO IDEA...
OOOH...

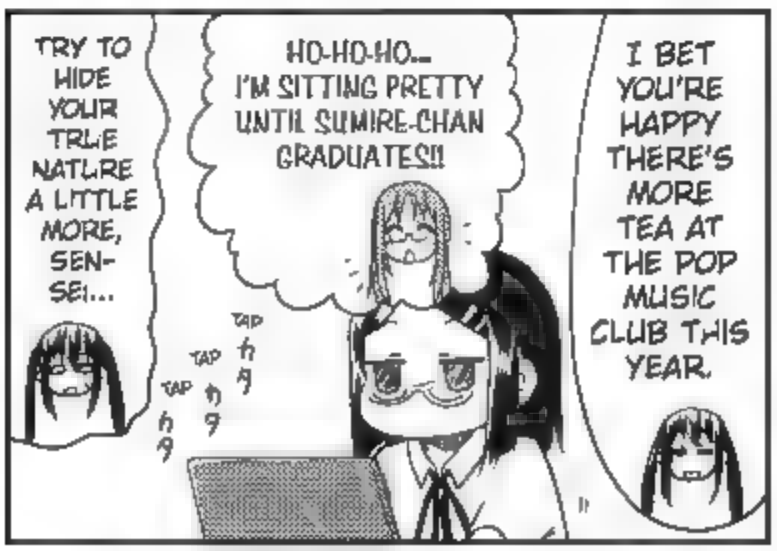
...AND I CAN STAY IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB?
SO DOES THAT MEAN I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE TEA SET HOME...

W-WE WERE DESPERATE FOR MORE MEMBERS, THAT'S ALL...
THE FUNNY THING IS, YOU GIRLS SNAGGED HER LONG BEFORE I DID.

THANKS!!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, SU-MEERE-CHAN!!

...AND YOU'VE GOT A RECIPE FOR INSTANT FRIENDS!
HEY, ALL YOU NEED ARE SOME GIRLS, TEA, SNACKS, AND CHIT-CHAT...

HEE HEE! WELL...
IN THAT CASE, WHY DID MUGI-SENPAI TELL SUMIRE TO BRING BACK THE SET IN THE FIRST PLACE?
CHATTER CHATTER!


TRY TO HIDE YOUR TRUE NATURE A LITTLE MORE, SEN-SEI...
HO-HO-HO... I'M SITTING PRETTY UNTIL SUMIRE-CHAN GRADUATES!!
TAP
I BET YOU'RE HAPPY THERE'S MORE TEA AT THE POP MUSIC CLUB THIS YEAR.

"OH, BUT SHE'S THE PASSIVE TYPE, SO I'LL NEED TO COME UP WITH AN EXCUSE TO PUSH HER INTO THE CLUB. DON'T LET HER GO, SAWAKO-SENSEI!"
"I HAVE SO MANY GREAT MEMORIES FROM THE POP MUSIC CLUB. I HOPE THAT SHE CAN EXPERIENCE THE SAME THINGS FOR HERSELF."

RE-ALLY!? HOW BIG IS IT!?
JUN, MUGI-SENPAI'S FAMILY OWNS A MANSION EVEN LARGER THAN THIS ONE.

IT'S INCRED-IBLE!!
WHOAAA, IT'S HUGE!!

WHAT!?
UM.. SOR-RY, NONE OF THEM ARE BIG-GER THAN THIS...

...BUT I NEVER IMAGINED SOME-THING THIS FANCY..
I HEARD STORIES OF ALL THE VACATION HANG-OUTS AT TSUMUGI-SENPAI'S SUMMER HOME..

WOWW!

WHOA! WHAT A HUGE INTERIOR! IT'S GOR-GEOUS!!

THANKS TO SUMIRE, THE POP MUSIC CLUB GETS TO HAVE A VACATION AT THE KOTOBUKI SUMMER HOME AGAIN THIS YEAR.

SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS "OCEAN VIEW"!!

YOU CAN SEE THE OCEAN! IT SMELLS LIKE SALT!

THIS ISN'T PLAY TIME! DROP YOUR LUGGAGE AND GET READY FOR BAND PRACTICE!

VERY GOOD

WANNA GO EXPLOR-ING?

NOT AN OPTION. WE CAME HERE TO PRAC-TICE.

C'MON, AZUSA! LET'S JUST HANG OUT FOR A BIT!

N-NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! EVERY YEAR WE DO A LITTLE ROUTINE, LIKE, "THERE'S AN EVEN BIGGER ONE? GOLLY!"

SO WHAT WAS UP WITH YOUR FAILED ATTEMPT TO THROW KNOWLEDGE AROUND?

...COMING FROM YOU, THOSE EYES DON'T MAKE ME FEEL A THING.

:3 DRIP

:3 DRIP

GOOD GIRL

YES

SEE, AZUSA-CHAN JUST WANTS TO HAVE FUN TOO.

SOB

IT'S BRAND NEW!

OF COURSE SHE BROUGHT ONE

ビクッ

FLINCH

G-GOOD QUESTION. THAT'S VERY S-STRANGE.

IF THIS IS JUST A BAND TRAINING CAMP, WHY DID YOU ALL BRING SWIMSUITS?

YAY!

FINE, I GUESS WE CAN HAVE FUN FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

DON'T WORRY! I HAD A FEELING THIS WOULD HAPPEN...

NOW I WISH I'D BROUGHT A SWIMSUIT TOO.

O-OF COURSE I DIDN'T. I'M ALL BUSINESS!

OF COURSE OUR STEADFAST LEADER WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT A SUIT, RIGHT?

THANK YOU.

I THINK THERE'S A SUIT IN THE CLOSET

SO I PACKED ONE FOR —

YOU TOO, UI!?

SNEAK SNEAK

EH? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE YOU CLOSING IN ON ME!?

SNEAK SNEAK

EH!? REALLY !?
IT'S VERY STRONG.
I BROUGHT SOME SUNBLOCK JUST FOR YOU, AZUSA-CHAN!

WHEE.
WHEE! IT'S THE BEACH!

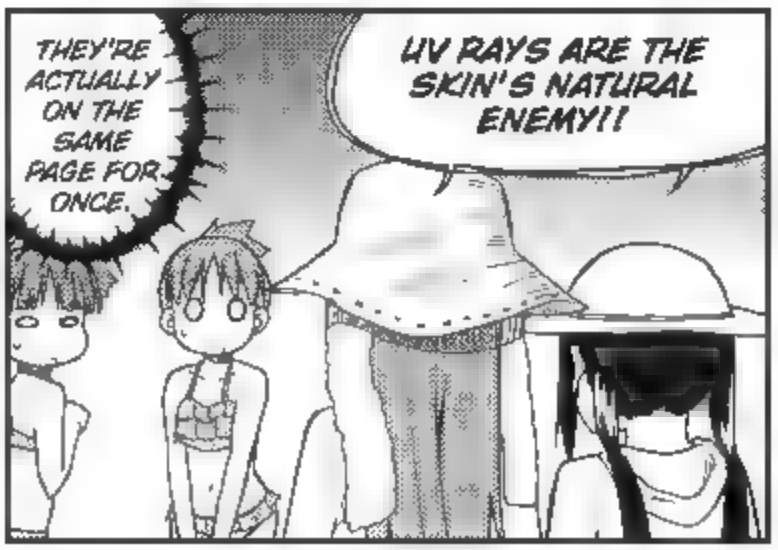
WHEE!
JUST LAY DOWN THERE, AND I'LL SPREAD IT ON.

COME JOIN THE FUN, AZU-SA-CHAN ...
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THESE
AAAGH!

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
WAIT, WHERE'S THE SEAM ON THE SHRINK-WRAP?

WHO'S THAT!?
COOL

SORRY, I FINALLY UN-WRAPP...
HOW'S IT COMING, U!?


THEY'RE ACTUALLY ON THE SAME PAGE FOR ONCE.
UV RAYS ARE THE SKIN'S NATURAL ENEMY!!

I FEEL LIKE ALL MY STANDARDS ARE BEING THROWN OUT OF WHACK...

WOW, EVEN THE STUDIO'S HUGE!

HEE

HEE

REAL-LY? WOW!

I PRE-PARED A SONG AND SOME LYRICS JUST FOR TODAY.

I'VE BEEN THE CLUB LEADER FOR MONTHS NOW, BUT I FEEL LIKE WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY-WHERE.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SIGHING?

SIGH...

BY THE WAY... I'VE BEEN WON-DER-ING...

THIS PRACTICE SESSION SHOULD GO GREAT, THEN!

SEN-SE...

WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING DISAPPOINTED IN YOURSELF? THERE'S NO ONE DEFINITION OF WHAT MAKES A CLUB PRESIDENT.

OH...

WHO'S GOING TO SING, AFTER ALL?

I'M SURE YOU'D LOOK REALLY COOL RIGHT NOW IF NOT FOR... THAT...

EVEN RIT-CHAN COULD DO IT! YOU'RE DOING FINE!

BING

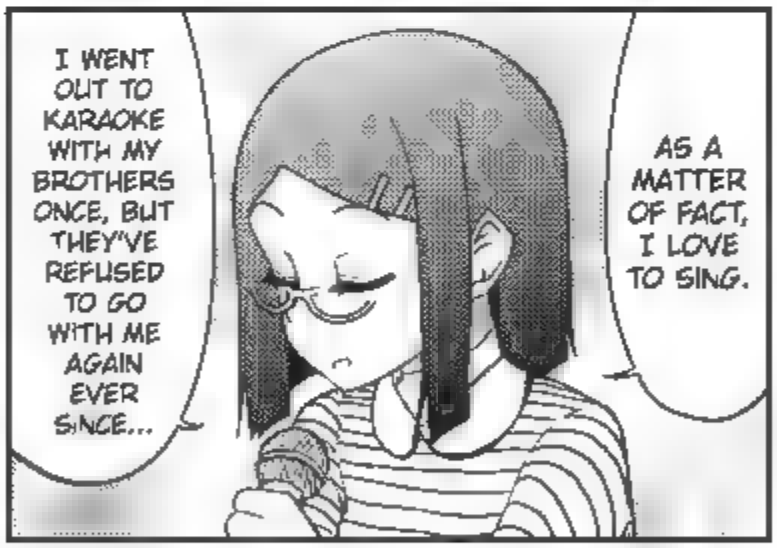
HUH? ME? NO WAY, I COULD NEVER REMEMBER ALL THOSE LYRICS!
WOULD YOU SING, JUN-CHAN?

HOW ABOUT YOU, NAO-CHAN? YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITH-OUT AN INSTRU-MENT.

M-ME!? I CAN'T, I CAN BARELY PLAY DRUMS AS IT IS!
SUMEERE?

OOH, SHE'S READY!
REPORT-ING FOR DUTY!!
THAT'S IT! TIME FOR YOU TO SING THE SONG YOU WROTE!

PEOPLE WILL CALL ME A "ROBOT" AGAIN...
OH, IT WAS BOTHERING HER.
I BET UI-SENPAI WOULD BE GOOD AT IT.


I WENT OUT TO KARAOKE WITH MY BROTHERS ONCE, BUT THEY'VE REFUSED TO GO WITH ME AGAIN EVER SINCE...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I LOVE TO SING.

EH?
STARE
じ ——

S-SOR-RY! NEVER MIND, WE'LL GET SOME-ONE ELSE!!
I HAVEN'T SUNG IN AGES— HEY!
SNAG
ガシッ
AZU-SA!! GRAB THE MIC!

I'M GOING TO PLAY A NOTE, AND I WANT YOU TO TRY AND MATCH IT. OKAY?

YES?

COME OVER HERE, AZUSA-CHAN.

I'LL... TRY...

IT'S SO FUNNY HOW THEIR METHOD OF PICKING A SINGER CHANGES BY THE GENERATION.

HEH HEH HEH

YOU KNOW FULL WELL I CAN'T SING!!

JUST A LITTLE HIGHER.

AH... AHHH.

PLINK

AHHH?

ピクッ
TWITCH

I DON'T KNOW, DOESN'T IT SEEM PROPER THAT THE *CLUB PRESIDENT* TAKES THE LEAD ROLE?

OKAY! WE'RE GOING TO TRY THE SAME NOTE AGAIN. READY?

THERE! HOLD THAT!

AHHH

THAT WAS TOO HIGH. DOWN A LITTLE.

M... MAY-BE...

OOH, SHE HIT IT RIGHT ON THE FIRST TRY!

IT'S WORKING, IT'S WORKING!

THAT'S RIGHT! THE FACE OF THE BAND IS THE FACE OF THE POP MUSIC CLUB, PRESIDENT AZUSA!

URRGH

UM, OKU-DA-SAN...

EVEN THE MOST GENIUS MUSI-CIANS PUT IN TONS OF WORK!

...BUT ANYONE CAN IMPROVE WITH PRACTICE.

A LOT OF MUSIC COMES DOWN TO INNATE SENSE...

THANKS FOR GIVING ME THAT PUSH ON THE BACK.

ANSWER

ALL I THINK ABOUT IS THE EYES OF OTHER PEOPLE
AM I JUST BEING WEIRD?
AM I LIVING LIFE THE RIGHT WAY?
HOW CAN I DO IT ALL CORRECTLY?
IS THERE EVEN A RIGHT ANSWER?

PEOPLE SAY THERE'S NO REAL FREEDOM IN THIS WORLD. BUT I FIND IT SO HUGE AND OVERWHELMING THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF

THEN I GUESS I CAN ONLY PUSH FORWARD WALKING IN PLACE IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME
I CAN ALWAYS STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT LATER

ABOUT THOSE LYRICS... IT'S AMAZING HOW WELL THEY MATCH MY OWN THOUGHTS ...

EH!?

NAKANO-SENPAI, THESE ARE MY LYRICS. I WROTE THEM WHILE THINKING OF YOU.

WELL, I OBSERVE EVERYONE'S CONVERSA-TIONS AND MANNER-ISMS AND TYPE THEM ALL INTO MY COMPUTER. I KNOW HOW EVERYONE THINKS.

OH, THAT?

YOU CAN DO IT, PREZ!!

IT'S ALL UP TO YOUR OWN MO-TIVATION, AZUSA-CHAN.

UH... REAL-LY...?

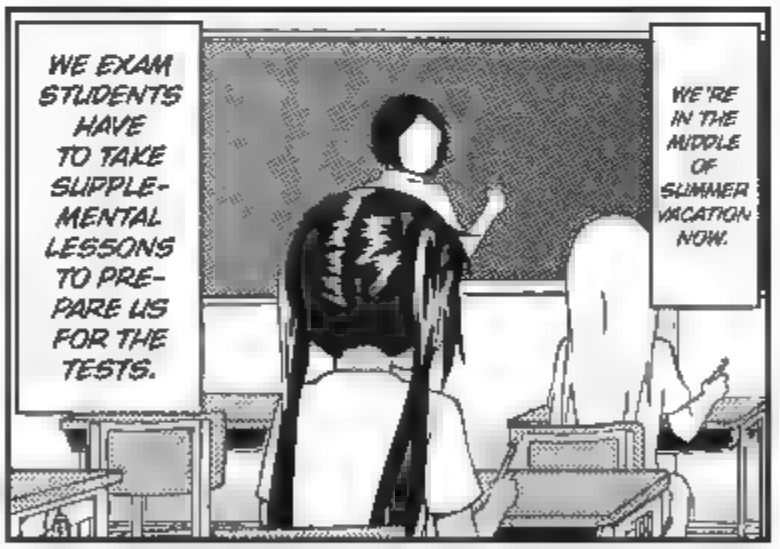
TEK スタ TEK スタ

NOW I KNOW HOW TO MANIPU-LATE AZUSA! ♪

YAY! ♡

I'M ON BOARD !!

...JUN, CAN IT WAIT UNTIL LATER?
HEY! I JUST HEARD THIS REALLY FASCINATING STORY FROM A FRIEND!
WANNA HEAR?


WE EXAM STUDENTS HAVE TO TAKE SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS TO PREPARE US FOR THE TESTS.
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER VACATION NOW.

LISTEN TO ME!
WELL, YOU SEE, THERE'S THIS RUMOR GOING 'ROUND THAT...

WHERE?
HEY, UI? THERE'S A PART HERE I DON'T GET...
のび STRETCH
AHH, FINALLY DONE!

GEEZ, YOU SCARED ME...

IT'S YOUR STORY! WHY DID YOU SCREAM?

EH?

SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE HEARD DRIPPING SOUNDS COMING FROM THE MUSIC ROOM LATE AT NIGHT.

WE WERE ONLY STARTLED BECAUSE YOU SCREAMED.

SEE? SCARY, RIGHT?

THERE WAS NOTHING INSIDE. NOT A SOUL TO BE SEEN.

A-AND THEN WHAT?

SOMEONE STAYING LATE IN THE EVENING HEARD SOMETHING COMING FROM THE ROOM AND WENT INSIDE...

I KNOW, RIGHT? I HEARD IT FROM A FRIEND...

OH NO, NOW I'M GOING TO REMEMBER THIS EACH TIME I GO TO THE MUSIC ROOM.

...THERE WAS A RED STAIN THAT LOOKED A LOT LIKE BLOOD!!

BUT WHEN SHE LOOKED AT THE FLOOR..

SO YOU JUST WANTED TO MAKE US MISERABLE WITH YOU?

...AND I FIGURED IT'S BETTER FOR EVERYONE TO BE SCARED RATHER THAN JUST ME!

EEEP!!

AAAAGH!!

WE COULD HAVE STARTED EARLIER IF NOT FOR YOUR DUMB STORIES.

FINALLY, WE GET TO HAVE BAND PRACTICE AGAIN!

THINK SAWAKO-SENSEI'S THERE? WE'LL NEED THE KEY.

ARE YOU DONE YET? I WAS ASKING U! FOR HELP HERE.

AWW!

OH, WHAT'S UP?

AH, THERE SHE IS! SENSEI!

CAN WE HAVE THE MUSIC ROOM KEY?

THAT'S JUST A TYPICAL URBAN LEGEND! I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE MY TIME WITH THAT

OOH

YOU ACT TOUGH, BUT I BET YOU'RE REALLY TREM-BLING INSIDE.

WE FIGURED, WHY NOT? WE'RE HERE FOR EXTRA LESSONS ANYWAY.

FOR PRACTICE? SURE! GOOD TO BE DILIGENT DURING VACATION.

SOME HAVE EVEN FALLEN ILL DUE TO THE TER-ROR...

BUT IT'S MORE THAN JUST ONE OR TWO PEOPLE WHO EXPERI-ENCED IT...

?

THAT'S MY GIRLS! VERY ROCK 'N' ROLL, VERY POP MUSIC CLUB!

OH, JUST SHUT UP ALREADY!!

AAAGH!! I'M SCARED!!

HOW CAN ALL OF THE THIRD-YEARS BE SUCH PER-FECTLY STUDIOUS PUPILS ...!?
N... NOT YOU TOO, JUN-CHAN...
GOOD HEAVENS

EH? REALLY?
I'M SUR-PRISED TO SEE HI-CHAN TAKING EXTRA LESSONS TOO.

PAR-DON?
THIS ISN'T MY POP MUSIC CLUB...

...ARE YOU GETTING THE WRONG IDEA, SENSEI?
I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET INTO MY PREFERRED COLLEGE WITHOUT MORE HELP...

EEEK!!
SCHOOL CLASSES ARE SECONDARY TO EVERY-THING ELSE! IF YOU HAVE TIME TO STUDY, SPEND IT ON YOUR INSTRUMENTS INSTEAD! THAT'S WHAT THE POP MUSIC CLUB DOES!!

THEY'RE NOT TO HELP US AVOID FAILING GRADES.
THESE ARE SUP-PLEMENTAL LESSONS FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.

...SEN-SEI...
HOW VERY RESPONSIBLE OF YOU, BALANCING YOUR CLUB ACTIVITY WITH SCHOLASTIC PURSUITS!♡

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, SEN-SEI?
YOU'RE DOING THEM TO HELP YOUR GRADES, RIGHT, JUN-CHAN!? RIGHT!?

NOW YOU SOUND LIKE A TEACHER.

HERE'S THE KEY

BY THE WAY, WHAT SCHOOL ARE YOU AIMING FOR?

NYAH!

HONESTLY

OH, REALLY? I FIGURED YOU'D GO TO N. WOMEN'S COLLEGE NO MATTER WHAT, UI-CHAN.

THAT'S ABOUT WHERE I AM. I'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO THREE MAIN OPTIONS, THOUGH.

I'LL CHOOSE BASED ON MY CENTER TEST RESULTS.

THEY SAY YOUNGSTERS DON'T CARE ABOUT CARS OR ALCOHOL ANYMORE, BUT ROCK 'N' ROLL TOO?

SIGH.. TIMES HAVE CHANGED

I-I'M STILL THINKING IT OVER.

AND YOU, AZUSA-CHAN?

NO, DON'T TRY TO CONSOLE ME... THIS IS JUST THE WAY OF THINGS...

SENSEI...

I JUST TOLD YOU I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT!!

OKAY. SO I GUESS IT'S AZUSA-CHAN WHO REALLY WANTS N. WOMEN'S COLLEGE...

OH. RIGHT AWAY.

NO, I JUST WANT THE KEY TO THE MUSIC ROOM.

HUH!?

そぉ～～～… SNEAK

HA HA...

I CAN'T DENY THE POSSIBILITY.

I WONDER HOW LONG UNTIL SAWAKO-SENSEI JUST GETS FIRED FROM SCHOOL.

EH!? SUMIRE AND OKUDA-SAN!?

IS THAT YOU, SEMPAIS!?

ドン BOOM

ゴ～ン… BAP

HUH?

SHE USED TO BE A REALLY GOOD TEACHER IN THE PAST, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S GETTING MORE AND MORE UNGLUED RECENTLY..

SENSEI..

SUMIRE-CHAN COMES AND PRACTICES THE DRUMS NEARLY EVERY DAY! ISN'T SHE GREAT?

W-WAIT, THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT A DRIPPING SOUND. IT'S MORE LIKE...

TH-THEN THE RUMORS WERE TRUE!?

YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE LOCKED...

DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING COMING FROM THE MUSIC ROOM?

SORRY, I DIDN'T REMEMBER UNTIL AFTER YOU LEFT, AND I DIDN'T CATCH UP IN TIME...

YOU COULD HAVE JUST TOLD US THEY WERE ALREADY IN THE ROOM. THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO GET THE KEY.

ドンズタ ドンズタ

...AN EIGHT-BEAT!!

THANKS! IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE I HAD SOME OF YOUR TEA!♡

HAVE SOME ICED TEA.

AND NOW YOU'RE ABLE TO PLAY AN EIGHT-BEAT ON THE HI-HAT...

HEH-HEH, I JUST WANTED TO IMPROVE AS MUCH AS I COULD..

THIS IS AMAZ-ING, SU-MEERE-CHAN!!

THANKS, SAWAKO-SENSEI!

SPARKLE

SPARKLE

I'VE GOT THE LATE SHIFT AT SCHOOL, SO FEEL FREE TO PRACTICE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

SHE'D DO ANYTHING IF WE GAVE HER ENOUGH TEA AND SNACKS...

I'M FINE. MY PALMS ARE GET-TING A LOT TOUGH-ER.

WOW, YOUR HANDS ARE COV-ERED IN BLIS-TERS! DON'T HURT YOUR-SELF!

OH, FORGET IT. JUST A DUMB STORY.

BLOOD?

IT'S FUNNY. I DON'T SEE ANY BLOOD-STAINS ANY-WHERE.

HEH-HEH... I'M DOING MY BEST.

SHE'S GETTING THE HANG OF WHERE TO USE HER STRENGTH AND WHERE NOT TO. WITH THAT ABILITY PLUS THE DRUMMING BASICS, SHE CAN APPLY HER SKILLS TO MORE BEATS!

LOOK WHO'S TALK-ING..

THAT'S ALL SCARY STORIES ARE SOME-ONE GETS THE WRONG IDEA, AND IT GROWS A LIFE OF ITS OWN IN THE TELLING.

A-AND YOU'RE DOING GREAT WRITING ALL OUR SONGS, OKUDA-SAN! WE DIDN'T FORGET YOU!!

TAP カタ TAP カタ TAP カタ TAP カタ TAP カタ TAP カタ

EEEEK!!

ガラッ SLAM

GHOSTS AREN'T REAL!!

AH!!

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN AT SCHOOL THIS LATE.

WOW, IT GOT DARK.

SO THE WATER SOUNDS AND BLOOD-STAINS FROM THE GHOST STORY... WERE JUST THE SINK AND LIPSTICK?

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT... I'M JUST RE-APPLYING MY MAKEUP! YOU MADE ME DROP MY LIPSTICK...

ROLL-ROLL

WH-WHA? SAWA-KO-SENSEI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT!? I HAVE TO GO BY MY-SELF!?

GO AND GET IT. WE'LL WAIT.

I LEFT MY SHEET MUSIC IN THE ROOM..

WHAT GHOST STORY?

N-NOT EXACT-LY...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ACTUALLY SCARED OF THAT STORY AFTER A...

LATER, AZUSA WOULD SPEAK OF SAWAKO'S FACE WITHOUT COSMET-ICS AS THE MOST FRIGHT-ENING SIGHT IN THE WORLD...

EEYAAAGH...

PLEASE COME WITH ME! PLEASE!!

DRIPPING SOUNDS... BLOOD-STAINS... MULTIPLE WITNESS-ES...

GOUKON~
TIME
TO MEET
SOME
HUNKS~

STRUCK OUT AGAIN, EH?
ONE MORE, MISTER.
ODEN

I'M DETER-MINED TO MAKE THE POP MUSIC CLUB EVEN GREATER THAN YUI-SENPAI'S GENERATION! THAT MEANS MAKING THE FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

SEC-OND TERM BE-GINS
AWW, THERE GOES THE FINAL SUMMER VACATION OF HIGH SCHOOL.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS EXAMS..

GEEZ, WHAT'S GOT YOU SO PUMPED UP ON THE FIRST DAY BACK...?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JUN!? WE STILL HAVE OUR SCHOOL FESTIVAL SHOW TO PLAY!!

I WANT OUR SHOW TO BLOW THEIR MINDS!!

I'VE DECIDED THAT I WON'T MEET THEM UNTIL THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!

MY SISTER HAS VACATION UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

WHAT!? COLLEGE IS SO MUCH BETTER!

UGH.

OKAY, BUT SUMEERE ONLY JUST LEARNED HOW TO PLAY AN EIGHT-BEAT...

TWITCH

SHE JUST HUNG AROUND AT HOME SINCE THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE FOR HER TO DO.

PLUS, YOUR SINGING'S KIND OF... YOU KNOW...

SORRY, FORCE OF HABIT.

JUN-CHAN, YOU SHOULDN'T SAY IT LIKE THAT!

どよーん

NOBODY SAID ANY-THING ABOUT WANT-ING TO SEE HER!!

UM...SHE'S ALREADY BACK AT THE DORM, AZUSA-CHAN.

FORGET IT! NO MORE THINKING, JUST PRACTICING!
ガッ
KTHLUNP
キーン コーン
DONG
DONG
NO, THAT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF HAVING A LIVE SHOW...
DO WE RECORD A DRUM TRACK AHEAD OF TIME AND LIP-SYNCH THE SONGS?
OH, REALLY? DANG, I WAS GOING SOMEWHERE WITH JUN-CHAN...
UI! JUN! LET'S GO TO THE MUSIC ROOM!
IT'S KIND OF FUNNY WATCHING HER FROM A DISTANCE.
ROLL
ROLL
AZUSA-CHAN'S REALLY RACKING HER BRAINS OVER THIS.
SO WE'D BETTER BE OFF! SORRY ABOUT THAT!
MMPH
むぐっ
HUH? REALLY? WHERE ARE WE—
WHAT'S SHE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT, ANYWAY? IT'S NOT LIKE AGONIZING IS GOING TO MAKE US PLAY BETTER THAN WE ACTUALLY CAN.
WAIT— UI!? JUN!?
HAVE FUN WITH OKUDA-SAN AND SUMEERE-CHAN!
BUT MY TEA, MY SNACKS...
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPLIMENT?
STARE
YOU KNOW, I LIKE HOW YOU DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH LITTLE THINGS.

AND THIS PERIOD BEFORE THE FESTIVAL IS SO CRUCIAL TOO...

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?

AHH...

SO UI-SENPAI AND JUN-SENPAI WON'T BE AT PRACTICE...

THE POP MUSIC CLUB'S GOING TO PERFORM IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.

OH, I DIDN'T TELL YOU GUYS?

WHAT!?

AND JUST MADE TEA TOO.

YEP... WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY'RE GOING?

RATTLE RATTLE カタカタカタ RATTLE

S-SETTLE DOWN, SUMIRE. SEE HOW CALM OKUDA-SAN IS?

I-I-I CAN'T!! NOT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!

TEN!?

I WROTE TEN SONGS DURING SUMMER VACATION, BUT I SUPPOSE THEY'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR NEXT TIME.

HUH!? THAT'S THE SOUND OF HER PANICKING!!

MY SONGS, IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL...!

RATTLE カタ

RATTLE カタ

UGH, THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START...

NO SNACKS UI-CHAN'S SNACKS

WE'LL BE FINE! IF WE PRAC-TICE HARD, WE CAN PLAY JUST AS WELL AS AFTER-SCHOOL TEA TIME..

NO, WE CAN'T!

OH, GET IT TO-GETHER ALREADY, PLEASE!?

H-HEY, I KNOW! WHERE'S THE DVD OF THE PERFOR-MANCE FROM LAST YEAR?

OH...

FIRST OF ALL, WE'RE THE GREEN LEAF GIRLS...

YOU WON'T BE NERVOUS ONCE YOU SEE WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE!

THIS IS THE VIDEO FROM LAST YEAR. WANT TO WATCH?

...THAT I'VE NEVER STOPPED TO FOCUS ON THE OTHER GIRLS AND MEET THEM AT THEIR LEVEL!!

THIS WHOLE TIME, I'VE BEEN FOCUSED ON MAKING A BETTER BAND AND CLUB THAN EVER BEFORE ...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE BEEN SUCH A JERK!!

OH, SENPAI CAUGHT IT TOO.

RATTLE

RATTLE

IT'S HAVING THE OP-POSITE EF-FECT!!

RATTLE

RATTLE

SURE, I'LL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE!

UM, IN THAT CASE, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING. IS THAT OKAY?

OKAY!

NO MORE PRACTICE FOR TODAY!

BLOOSH

IT IS TRUE THEY CALLED YOU AZU-MEOW, SENPAI?

NO, NO!

EH!? HOW COME!? ARE WE BEING LAID OFF!?

THE MISTRESS TOLD ME ABOUT IT.

WH-WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT...?

I'VE DECIDED I'D RATHER ENJOY OUR TEA-TIME...

...AND HAVE A NICE CHAT WITH YOU ALL!

ABSOLUTELY NOT!!

ガタッ

THUMP

CAN I CALL YOU AZU-MEOW-SENPAI FROM NOW—

THAT IS NOT THE CASE.

BUNT

THAT'S MY GIRL! YOU'VE FINALLY COME AROUND TO THE WAY I THINK...

I WASN'T TRYING TO SINGLE YOU OUT OR ANY-THING!

DOWN WE GO

S-SORRY, SORRY!

WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU TYPING, OKUDA-SAN!?

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

HMM... IT'S JUST SO HARD TO READ HER EMO-TIONS BASED ON HER FACE...

...IS THAT SO.

WHAT NOTES!?

JUST... TAKING NOTES...

MURRP.

NAO! IS THAT BETTER?

SHOULD I CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME, THEN?

BACK TO NORMAL? WHAT IS IT?

OH, ACTU-ALLY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOME-THING AS WELL.

WHOA! I'VE NEVER SEEN OKUDA-SAN REACT THIS WAY!!

MEAN, NAO!

NOT THAT I WAS DE-MAND-ING IT...

OH... THAT WAS BOTH-ERING HER?

WHY AM I THE ONLY PERSON YOU CALL BY THE LAST NAME?

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, AZUSA!

HERE SHE COMES!

...AND WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING?

MMM.

AREN'T YOU LUCKY?

I'VE BEEN SURROUNDED BY THESE SWEET UNDERCLASSMEN THIS WHOLE TIME...

SO I GUESS YOU SUCCESSFULLY MANIPULATED ME, HUH...?

YEP...

DID YOU HAVE A NICE CHAT WITH SUMEERE-CHAN AND OKUDA-SAN?

ぎ

SQUISH

ゆっ

OHH...

BUT REMEMBER THIS, UI... YOU HAVE TO CALL OKUDA-SAN "NAO" FROM NOW ON.

W-WHAT IS IT, SENPAI?

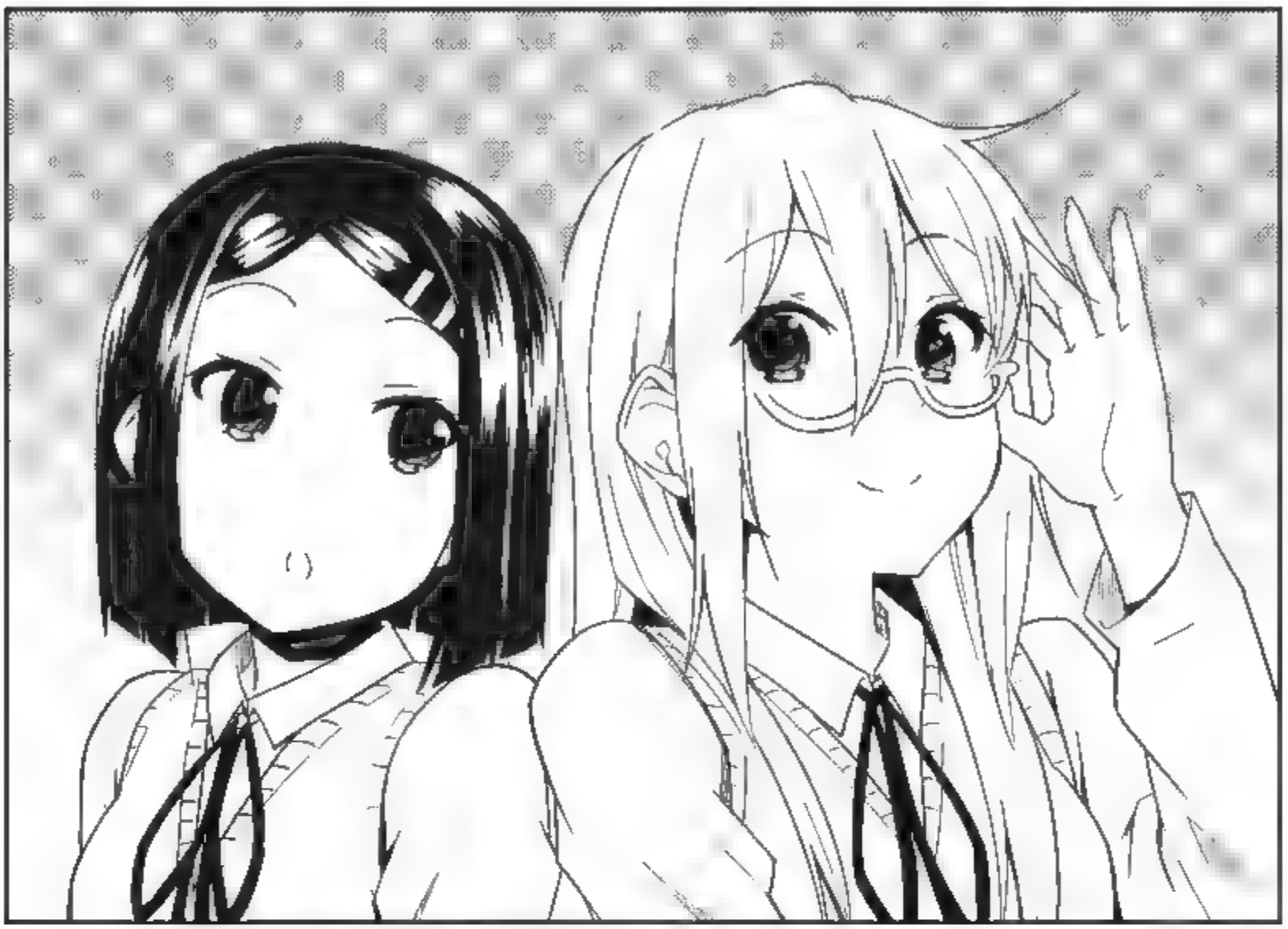
HEH-HEH! IT'S A POP MUSIC CLUB TRADITION TO CHAT IN THE MUSIC ROOM AND HUG YOUR SWEET UNDERCLASSMEN!♡

YEAH!!

OKAY! TIME FOR THE GREEN LEAF GIRLS TO GET READY FOR THE FESTIVAL!!

SWEET UNDERCLASSMEN, I SAID.

COME ON



UM, THIS IS FINE! NO TROU-BLE!
DO WE HAVE ANY BANDAGES?
OH, YOU POPPED ANOTHER BLIS-TER...

ズンズンタ
ZMM
ZMM
BAD
CLONK
ベコッ

UM... OKAY ...?
RE-ALLY? WELL, DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF.

NO WORRIES! IT'S REALLY COMING TOGETH-ER!
AAAH, I'M SORRY, I SCREWED UP AGAIN...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SHOWING FAVOR TO MY UNDERCLASSMEN?
DON'T ACT SO CYNICAL!

GWEH!
NAO!

I GUESS IF ANYTHING, I'M SURPRISED TO SEE THIS SIDE OF AZUSA-CHAN...
UI, DID YOU FORESEE THIS HAPPENING?

THAT NEW SONG YOU WROTE IS FANTASTIC!
WH-WHAT IS IT?

...SO I NEED TO TEACH YOU GUYS ALL I CAN BEFORE I LEAVE!
WE'RE RETIRING AS OF THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL...

HMM?
UM... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO AZUSA-SENPAI?

EXCUSE ME!?
...WAS THERE ANYTHING YOU HAD TO TEACH, AZUSA?

OH...
SEEMS LIKE SHE FINALLY WANTS TO BE THE HANDS-ON SENPAI SHE NEVER WAS.
I'M SORRY. CAN YOU GIVE ME SPACE ?

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PULL THAT OFF...

AZUSA-SENPAI'S SHOW FROM LAST YEAR WAS AMAZING.

I MEAN, I'VE BEEN RELYING ON THEM FOR EVERY-THING AND NEVER GIVEN ANYTHING BACK IN RETURN...

WHAT IF I SCREW UP AT THE SHOW? IT'S THEIR FINAL PERFOR-MANCE...

I DIDN'T REAL ZE THE SEN-PAIS WERE GOING TO RETIRE AFTER THE SCHOOL FESTI-VAL...

HUH? UM, YES...

SUMIRE, ARE YOU FREE TODAY?

HMM

TEK

TEK

.....

.....

TUG

HEY, NAO-CHAN! ARE YOU LISTE...

WHAAAT!?

YOU'RE STAYING OVER AT MY HOUSE TONIGHT.

UMM... NAO-CHAN?

.....

.....

SORRY.

DO YOU COOK FOR THEM EVERY DAY, NAO-CHAN?

...

WEL-COME HOME, NEE-CHAN!

I'M HUN-GRY.

OHH...

NOT EVERY DAY, BUT MOM'S BUSY A LOT THESE DAYS...

トン TAP トン TAP

TWINS!? THEY'RE SO CUUUTE!

SHE'S BLONDE

SHE'S BLONDE

N... NAO-CHAN'S BROTH-ERS!?

YEP.

THOSE SIB-LINGS ARE CUTE, BUT IT MUST BE TOUGH WITH SO MANY.

EH!?

HANG ON, I'LL START COOKING RIGHT AWAY.

YEP

I REALLY WASN'T EXPECTING QUADRU-PLETS, THOUGH...

I-I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT! I JUST THOUGHT THAT'S VERY GOOD OF YOU!

...I CAN COOK, YOU KNOW.

THAT WAS A GOOD BATH ...

AHH...

REALLY? THANKS!

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT COOKING!

THIS IS YUM-MY.

OH, P-PARDON ME! MY NAME IS SUMIRE SAITOU! I WAS JUST USING YOUR BATH!!

HER MOTHER!?

OH, ARE YOU NAO'S FRIEND? WELCOME!

REALLY?

NAO-CHAN'S COOK-ING WAS GOOD TOO.

NAO'S TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.

AH, SO YOU'RE SUMIRE-SAN.

WHAT? SUMIRE NEE-CHAN'S WAS WAY BETTER.

YEAH, I LIKE HERS MORE THAN...

Y-YES, MA'AM !!

BOWING DEEPLY

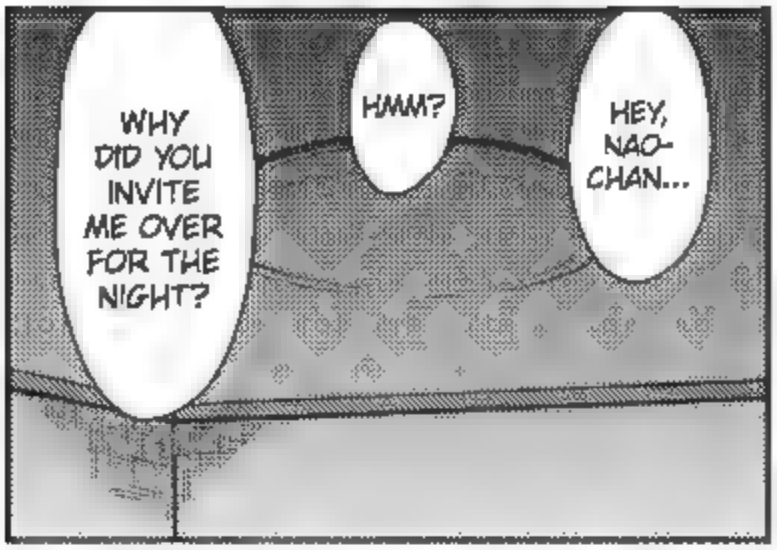
SHE REALLY SEEMS TO LIKE YOU. I HOPE YOU'LL STAY GOOD FRIENDS WITH HER.

NO DINNER FOR YOU TOMOR-ROW.

AWWW!!

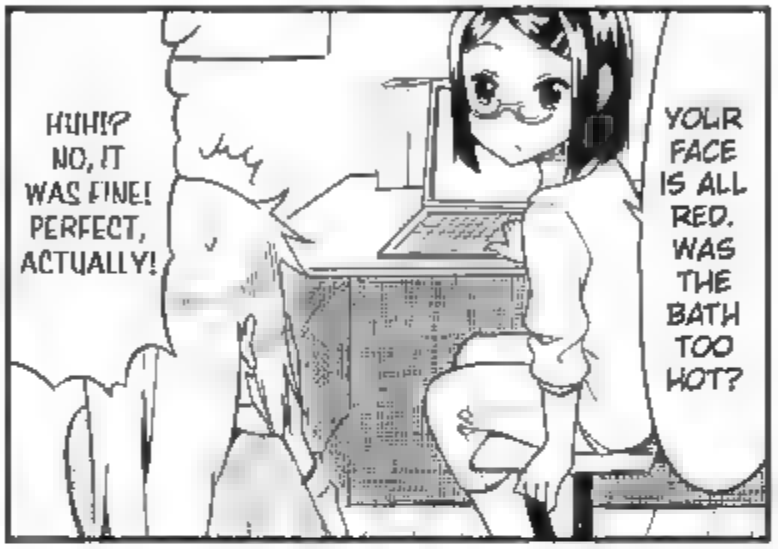
J-JUST KID-DING! NEE-CHAN'S IS BET-TER!!

GIGGLE GIGGLE


WHY DID YOU INVITE ME OVER FOR THE NIGHT?
HMM?
HEY, NAO-CHAN...

ALL DONE?
CLICK ガチャッ
PHEW...

I FEEL THAT SAME WARMTH FROM THE POP MUSIC CLUB TOO.
EH? OH, YEAH. YOU SEEM TO GET ALONG WELL.
...I LOVE BEING IN THIS FAMILY.


HUH!? NO, IT WAS FINE! PERFECT, ACTUALLY!
YOUR FACE IS ALL RED. WAS THE BATH TOO HOT?

YEAH...
IN A REAL FAMILY, NO ONE WORRIES WHEN YOU SCREW UP. THEY'RE THERE TO HELP YOU STAY ON YOUR FEET.

I GUESS MY PAJAMAS ARE A BIT SMALL ON YOU.
UM... THE CHEST IS A BIT TIGHT... BUT IT'S FINE!

HAS A TON OF THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THAT, BUT DES-PER-ATELY HOLD-ING THEM IN.
EVEN I MESS UP ONCE IN A BLUE MOON, BUT MY BROTHERS DON'T SAY A THING.

EH!? OH!! SORRY, IT'S FINE!!
I WAS ONLY TALK-ING ABOUT THE LENGTH

AZU-SA-SEN-PAI...

EVEN IF WE USED A DRUM TRACK AND THE SHOW WAS A SUC-CESS, IT WOULDN'T BE THE GREEN LEAF GIRLS.

ズンズンタン

ZNNN

ZNNN

BAP

CLONK

ベコッ

THANK YOU SO MUCH, I'LL DO MY BEST!

WE'LL BE THERE FOR YOU UNTIL YOU CAN PLAY IT RIGHT. LET'S DO THIS TO-GETHER!

PSHHHH

ぷしゅう

I JUST CAN'T PLAY THIS PART...

UGH ... I CAN'T DO THIS ...

WHAT KIND OF CORN-BALL THEATER IS THIS?

HEH HEH, HOW TOUCH-ING!

DON'T BE SILLY, SU-MEERE-CHAN! WE NEED TO PLAY AS A GROUP!

FORGET IT! PLEASE USE A DRUM TRACK FOR THE FESTIVAL!

WHAT KIND OF FEELING IS THAT!?

I GOT THE FEELING WE MIGHT NEED SLEEPING BAGS, SO HERE THEY ARE!

UGH, MY CHEST ...

STOP THINK-ING ABOUT A DRUM TRACK! IT'S JUST RUN-NING AWAY FROM THE PROB-LEM!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE TRYING TO PLAY THE OLD SHEET...

I PLAYED IT RIGHT!!

OKAY.

CAN I HEAR THE PRO-GRAMMED TRACK ONE MORE TIME, NAO-CHAN?

A BIT!?

TEE-HEE

SORRY, GUESS I MESSED UP A BIT.

HMM?

HMM... IT'S JUST TOO HARD...

WAIT, AND HOW IS UI-CHAN SUPPOSED TO PLAY HER PART WITHOUT SIX FINGERS?

BUT IN THE END, IT'S ALL THANKS TO NAO-CHAN...I GUESS?

OH, CER-TAINLY.

NAO-CHAN, CAN I SEE THE SHEET MUSIC FOR THIS SONG?

?

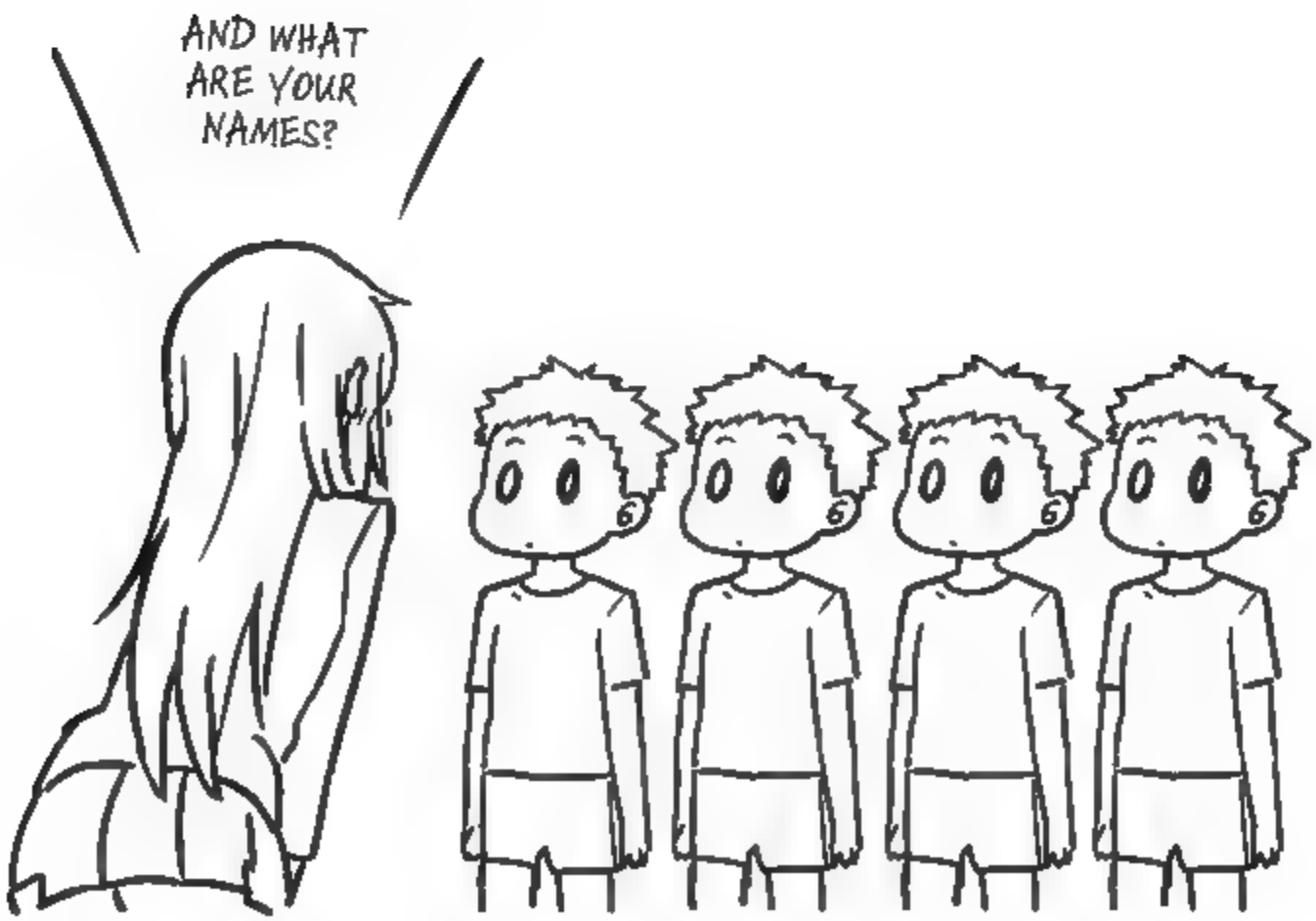
HOW!?

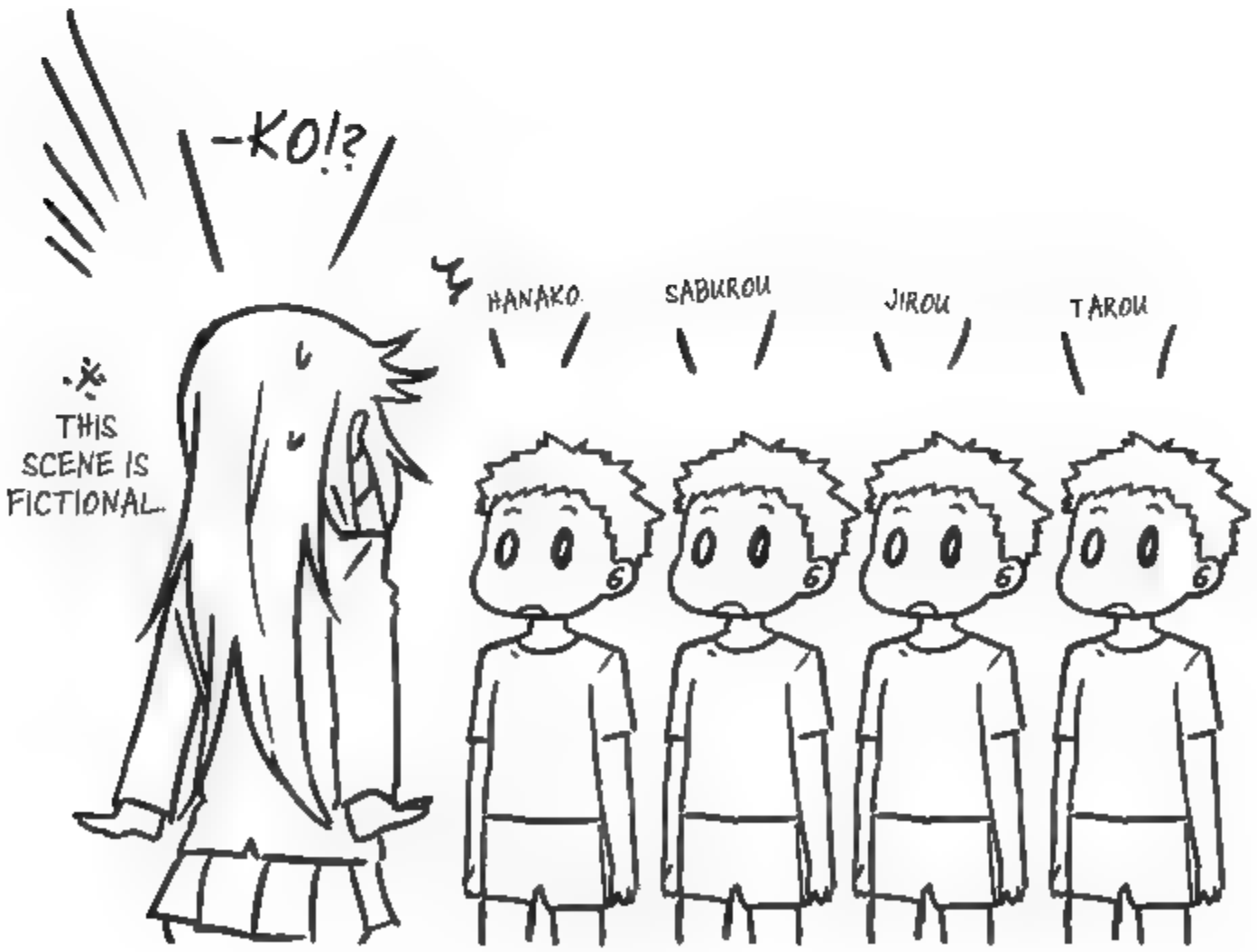
HIRA-SAWA-SENPAI'S BEEN PLAYING IT PER-FECTLY THE WHOLE TIME.

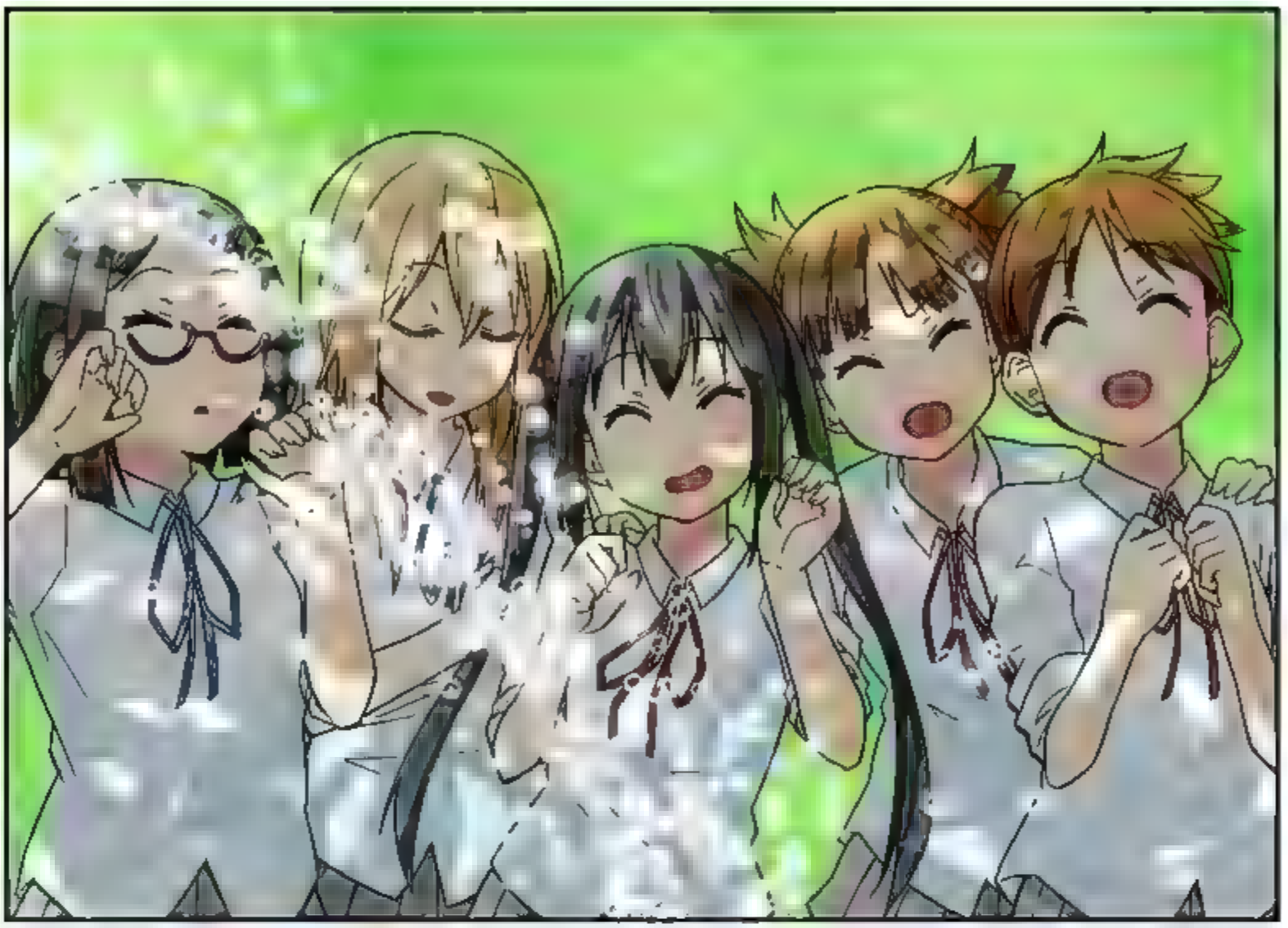
WHAT!?

LET ME F.X IT UP

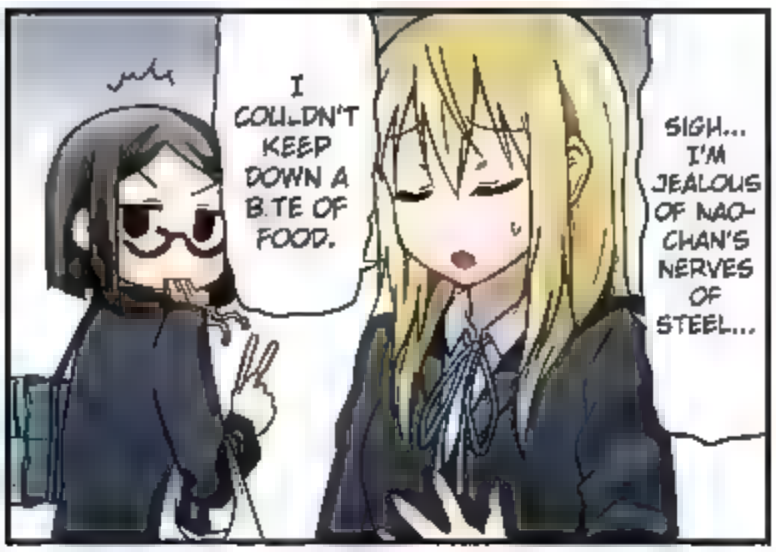
I DON'T THINK THIS IS PLAYABLE WITHOUT THREE HANDS...

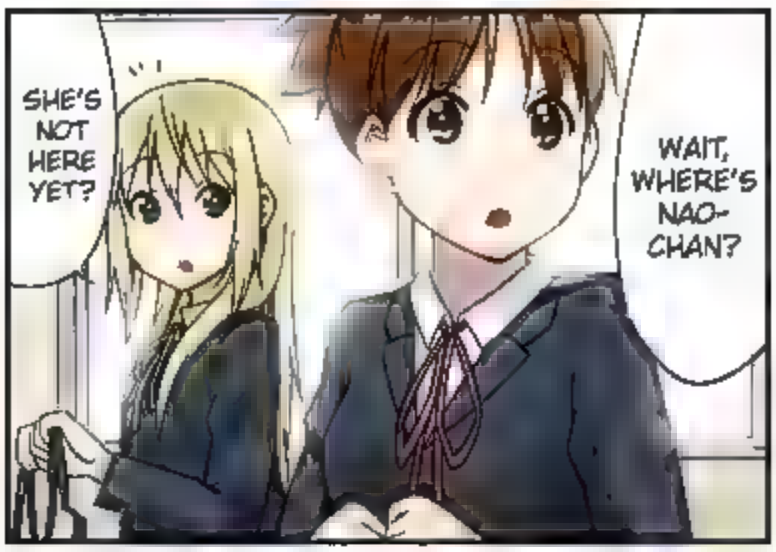

AND WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?

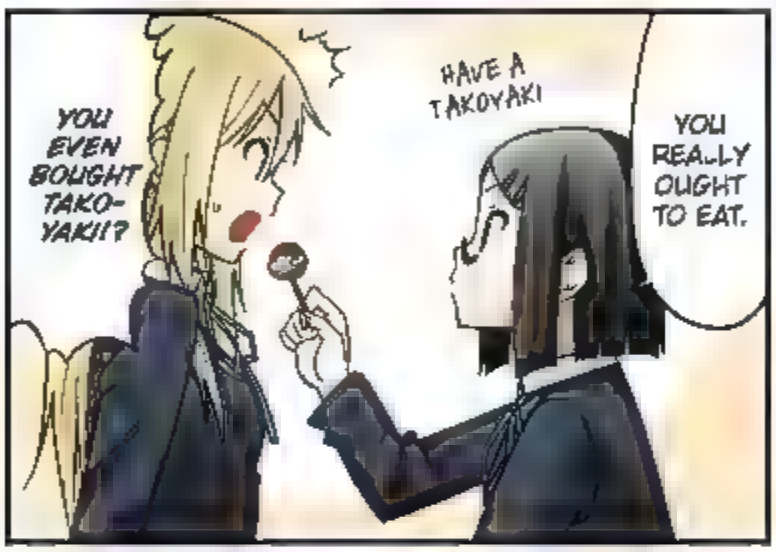

-KO!?
HANAKO
SABUROU
JIROU
TAROU
※
THIS SCENE IS FICTIONAL.



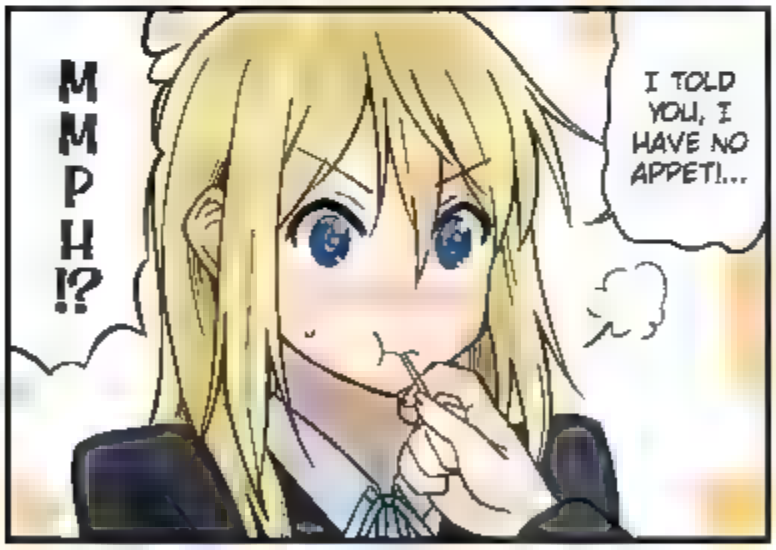
REALLY? ARE YOU THE TYPE TO GET NERVOUS, SENSEI?
SIGH... I DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP EITHER...
...GOOD MORN-ING...
WOBBLE
FES-TIVAL DAY
NO COS-TUMES.
NO, I WAS UP ALL NIGHT PREPARING YOUR STAGE COSTU—
HA-HA... I DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP DUE TO NERVES...
MORN-ING... OH MY GOSH, THOSE BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES! YOU ALL RIGHT?


I COULDN'T KEEP DOWN A BITE OF FOOD.
SIGH... I'M JEALOUS OF NAO-CHAN'S NERVES OF STEEL...

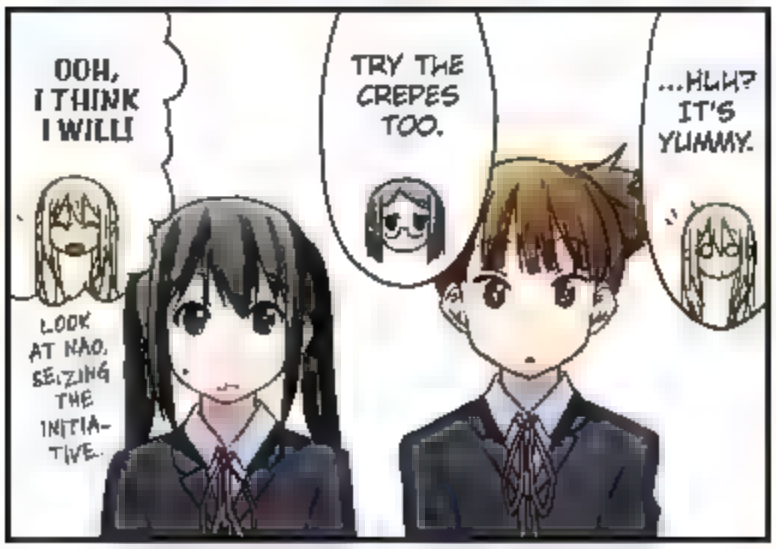

SHE'S NOT HERE YET?
WAIT, WHERE'S NAO-CHAN?

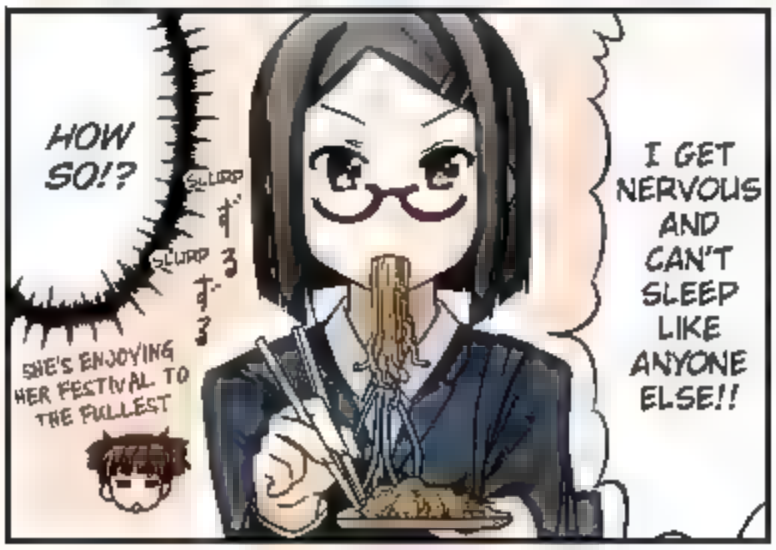

YOU EVEN BOUGHT TAKO-YAKI!?
HAVE A TAKOYAKI
YOU REALLY OUGHT TO EAT.

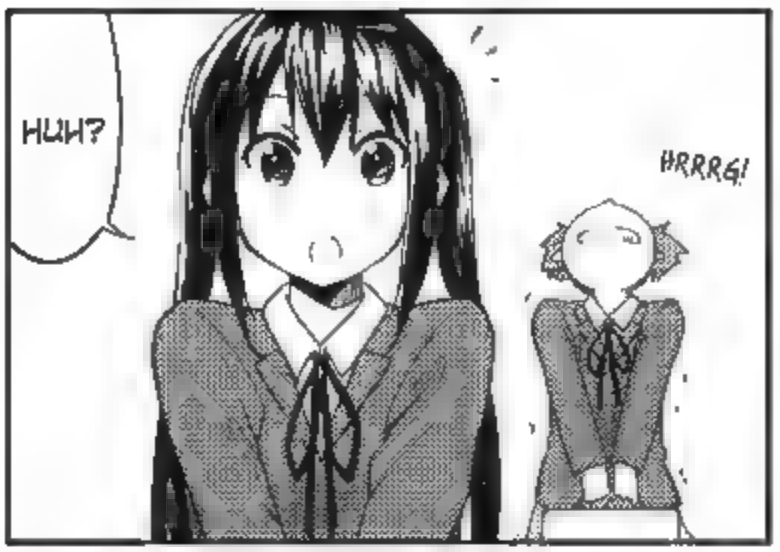
REALLY? THAT'S NOT HER STYLE...
WHAT IF SHE SLEPT IN BECAUSE SHE WAS UP LATE WORRY-ING?


MMPH!?
I TOLD YOU, I HAVE NO APPETI...

OH, SORRY! DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE!
HOW RUDE!!


OOH, I THINK I WILL!
TRY THE CREPES TOO.
...HUH? IT'S YUMMY.
LOOK AT NAO, SEIZING THE INITIA-TIVE.


HOW SO!?
SLURP
SLURP
SHE'S ENJOYING HER FESTIVAL TO THE FULLEST
I GET NERVOUS AND CAN'T SLEEP LIKE ANYONE ELSE!!


HUH?
HRRRG!

UGH, THE WORST PART...
WE'D BET-TER START HAUL-ING OUR EQUIP-MENT.

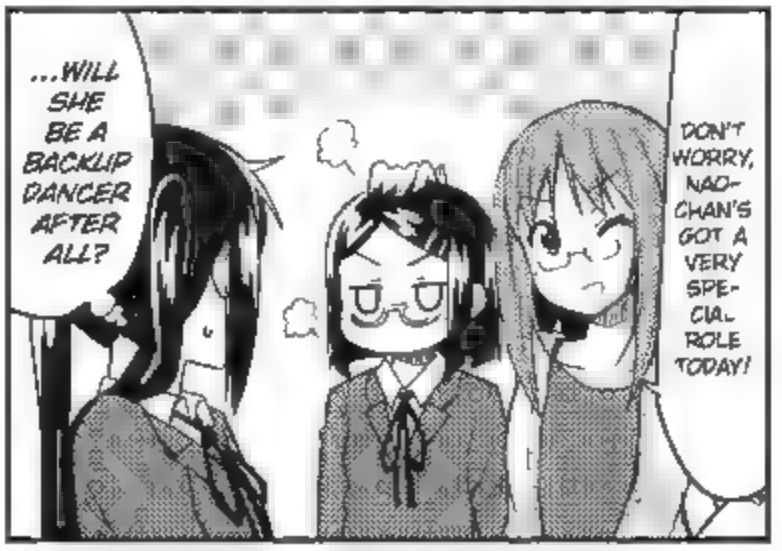
I FIGURED WE'D MIC ALL THE INSTRU-MENTS AND MIX THEM LIVE.
WHAT'S THAT MIC FOR, SENSEI?

GOOD THING YOU'RE NOT FRAGILE, THEN.
IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR A FRAGILE YOUNG GIRL!

W-WOW... JUST LIKE A PRO!
NAO-CHAN WILL HANDLE THE SOUND BOARD!!

YEAH... SORRY TO FORCE ALL THESE TASKS ON YOU, NAO...
ARE WE BRINGING THIS TOO?
EXCUSE ME!?

HEH HEH.. OUR SCHOOL'S POP MUSIC CLUB HAS A VERY POWER-FUL SPON-SOR...
BUT... WHERE DID ALL THIS STUFF COME FROM?


...WILL SHE BE A BACKUP DANCER AFTER ALL?
DON'T WORRY, NAO-CHAN'S GOT A VERY SPE-CIAL ROLE TODAY!

YOU'RE MUCH BETTER NOW! IT'LL BE FINE!

IS MY SINGING STILL THAT BAD?

GREAT.. I'M SO NER-VOUS...

MURMUR

MURMUR

UGH, LOOK HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE!

BE-FORE THE SHOW

S-SENSEI! GIVE ME AN OBJEC-TIVE OPIN-ION!

SURE, IF YOU COM-PARE IT TO WHEN YOU START-ED!

JUST PLAY LIKE WE ALWAYS DO, AND WE'LL BE FINE!

"BUT"!? BUT WHAT!?

I'VE TAUGHT YOU EVERY-THING I CAN, BUT...

SORRY, I WAS JUST SOAKING UP THE MOMENT, THINKING ABOUT HOW FAR THE GREEN LEAF GIRLS HAVE COME ...

AZUSA, WHY ARE YOU SPACING OUT?

むにー

NARROW

JUST KIB-BING...

DON'T WORRY, I'LL MIX YOUR VOCALS AS LOW AS I CAN.

WHAAAT!?

AND AS LONG AS YOU CAN ACTU-ALLY SING PROP-ERLY, WE'LL BE PER-FECT.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO MUSIC

AZUSA-CHAN'S A HARD WORKER, SO SHE PICKED THINGS UP QUICKLY.

Y-YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL ME FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE BIG SHOW...

SOME PEOPLE HAVE AN INNATE SOMETHING THAT TRANSCENDS KNOWLEDGE, JUST LIKE YUI-CHAN...

AZU-SA-SEN-PAI!

TO BE FRANK, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S ACTUALLY "BAD"...

IT'S NOT JUST AZUSA-CHAN WHO'S IMPROVED, BUT SUMIRE-CHAN AND NAO-CHAN TOO.

..BUT THANKS TO SUMIRE-CHAN, AZUSA MANAGED TO OVERCOME HER SHYNESS AND NERVES TO SING NATURALLY.

...I'M SURE IT'LL ALL BE FINE IF YOU DO YOUR BEST!!

UM, UM, I KNOW IT'S NOT FOR ME TO SAY THIS, BUT...

...ARE JUST AS GREAT A BAND AS AFTER-SCHOOL TEA TIME.

GREEN LEAF GIRLS

OOH, SHE'S BACK!

...WHY DO I NEED MY UNDER-CLASSMEN TO CHEER ME UP!? I'M THE LEADER!!

AHH, THAT WAS FUN!!

CLAP パチ HUFF CLAP パチ HUFF CLAP パチ RAHHH!!

MY MIND'S A BLANK... I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT...

YOU WERE GREAT, SUMEERE! I HAD SO MUCH FUN BEING IN A RHYTHM SECTION WITH YOU!

WOW! IT'S JUST LIKE A REAL CONCERT!

ENCORE!

ENCORE!

UGH... I'M NOT GONNA SCREW UP LIKE THAT NEXT TIME...

STOP FRETTING, AZUSA! THEY ALL THOUGHT IT WAS GREAT!

NOW WE'RE GOING TO PLAY "FLUFF-FLUFF TIME"!!

EH!?

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!!

GRAB ガシッ

ARE YOU STAYING BEHIND WITH US!?

OH, NO! THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME!!

NEXT TIME? ARE YOU BEING HELD BACK A YEAR?

...EVEN THEIR ABILITY TO LAND ON A PUNCHLINE IS IDENTICAL TO AFTER-SCHOOL TEA TIME...

BLONK ボヨーン

I'VE NEVER PLAYED THAT SONG BEFORE IN MY LIFE!!

RUSTLE

WE'LL NEVER FORGET ALL THE THINGS YOU TAUGHT US, SENPAIS!! WE'LL MAKE SURE THE POP MUSIC CLUB IS EVEN BETTER NEXT YEAR!!

UMM —!!

PUNCH

GREAT WORK, GIRLS!!

SLAM

BUT I FAILED

I WAS TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT THIS BEING THE END...

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, SENPAIS!!

HERE GOES

Thank you, Senpais

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S FEELING DEPRESSED, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!

...THANK YOU...

YOU'VE GRADUATED FROM YOUR BEGINNER BADGE! IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STEP!!

THERE'S NOTHING TO FEEL BAD ABOUT! YOU ALL MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS IN THESE SIX MONTHS!

NO, THANK *YOU!!*

OH, COME ON, I'M TRYING TO CHEER YOU UP!!

YOU HAVE TO DRIVE WITH THE BEGINNER BADGE FOR A YEAR BEFORE IT COMES OFF.

YOU SUGGESTED THAT BAND NAME JUST FOR THIS REASON?

OH, ARE WE THE GREEN LEAF GIRLS BECAUSE WE'VE GOT BEGINNER BADGES?

WAIT, YOU'RE STARTING FROM THERE?

SO FIRST, IF YOU WANT TO SNAG SOME NEW MEMBERS...

HUH? BUT AREN'T YOU GRADUATING FROM THE POP MUSIC CLUB ...?

THEN IT'S BACK TO PRACTICE STARTING TOMORROW!

WELL, WELL ...

SURE!

SHALL WE MAKE SOME TEA?

THAT'S WONDERFUL

R-REALLY!?

I CAN'T DO ANY MORE GIGS, BUT I CAN STILL GIVE YOU PRIVATE LESSONS!

...FIND A WAY TO KEEP ME ENTERTAINED?

HOW WILL NEXT YEAR'S POP MUSIC CLUB..

kakifly

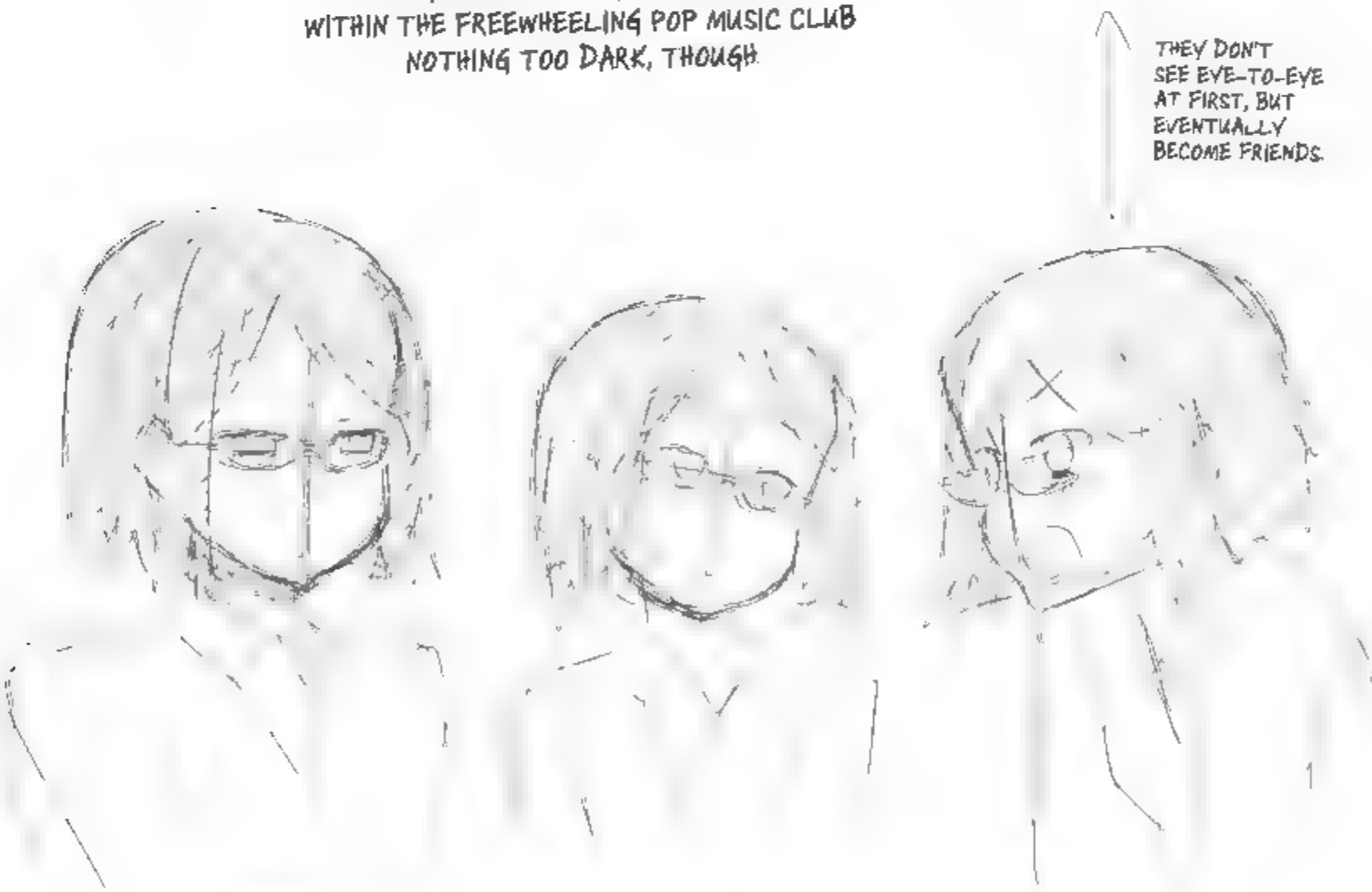
He lo, my name is kakifly
Thanks to al of you fans,
. got to continue our story.
hope you enjoy it

THANKS FOR READING...

CHARACTER DESIGN SHEET

SAITOU-SAN DRUMS

MUGI'S MAID? HOUSEGUEST?
SLOWLY LEARNS TO EXPRESS HERSELF
WITHIN THE FREEWHEELING POP MUSIC CLUB
NOTHING TOO DARK, THOUGH.



OKUDA-SAN | VOCALS ONLY? PLUCKED FROM THE CHOIR CLUB, MAYBE?

LITERARY AND SCHOLARLY APPEARANCE. WELL-ROUNDED. MORE SERIOUS THAN AZUSA WAS A YEAR AGO, BUT SLOWLY OPENS UP TO THE GROUP.

BONUS COMICS

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr /Mrs./ Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

***-sama*:** Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee

***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

***-senpai*:** Used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

K-ON!

The title *K-ON!* comes from the Japanese word *"kei-ongaku,"* meaning "light music" in the sense of casual or easy listening (i e., not serious or innovative as in serious classical or jazz). In the context of school clubs in Japan, the term *"kei-ongaku-bu"* ("light music club") usually contrasts with *"ongaku-bu"* ("music club") in that it focuses on popular forms of music (pop, rock, folk, etc.) where the latter focuses on symphonic and choral forms.

kakifly

The author's name, "kakifly," comes from the Japanese word *"kaki furai,"* meaning "fried oysters." It seems to be a running joke, as the author comments for this and future volumes reference his feelings toward oysters

Yen Conversion

A general rule of thumb to use for converting Japanese yen to American dollars is ¥100 to 1 USD.

PAGE 5

Daioki

A fellow manga artist of kakifly whose work also runs in *Manga Time Kirara* alongside *K-ON!*.

PAGE 15

Jumping

A tea brewing phenomenon in which the water is just the right temperature to cause the tea leaves to circulate up and down, appearing to "jump" or "dance." The term "jumping" (in English) was actually entirely created in Japan and found in no other tea-drinking culture.

PAGE 18

Sumeere

The name Sumire is pronounced sue-mee-ray in quick syllables, but the other girls have taken to stretching out the middle syllable for a nickname

PAGE 35

Cleaning duty

In Japan, school classes are responsible for cleaning their own rooms and other areas of the school.

PAGE 48

Green Leaf Girls

The Japanese name is "Wakaba Girls." *Wakaba* means "fresh leaves" or "new leaves," and signifies spring, youth, innocence, etc.

PAGE 52

Kiyomizu

Kiyomizu Temple (or Kiyomizu-dera) is a famous Buddhist temple built on a hill overlooking Kyoto. Due to the slope, the temple features an imposing height in spots, and a large "stage" is prominently featured on one face of the building, with the platform over 40 feet above the ground below. Rumor held that jumping off the stage and surviving would cause one's wish to come true, and since then, the phrase "to jump off the stage at Kiyomizu" has held the same meaning as the idiom "to take the plunge."

PAGE 58

Raijin

Jun is depicted in her "stormy day" hair as Raijin, the Japanese god of thunder. Raijin is usually depicted as an *oni*, a traditional Japa-

nese monster often translated as "demon" or "ogre." Oni usually wear tiger-print clothing and feature horns and wild and unruly hair.

PAGE 60
Third-year floor
Japanese middle and high schools, which are three years each, typically construct their buildings with three floors such that each year of students is on a different floor. First-years are on the first floor, second-years on the second, and third-years on the third.

PAGE 67
Mugi-tea
Roasted barley tea, typically served cold during the summer.

PAGE 87
Center Test
The University Admissions Center Test, administered by the National Center for University Entrance Examinations. The Center Test is a standardized exam that most Japanese colleges will take into account when selecting admissions, much like the SAT in America.

PAGE 91
Goukon
Sawako is heading off to a *goukon*, which is a type of group blind date highly popular in Japan. Generally, a man and woman who are acquaintances agree to bring two or three friends of the same sex to a bar. The "friends of friends" atmosphere makes it more likely that the group shares something in common, while still offering a chance to meet new people and possibly develop a new romance.

PAGE 110
Hanako
The common name ending of *ko*, meaning "child," is prominent in a large percentage of female names. Tarou is a male name that is so plain it might as well be "Bob" or "Joe." The name Jirou starts with the character for "next," which makes it a popular variation for second sons. Similarly, Saburou starts with the character for "three."

PAGE 112
Takoyaki
An octopus-based delicacy that originated in Osaka. Diced octopus is sprinkled into a batter and then fried in spherical molds to form balls around two inches wide, sprinkled with seaweed flakes and dried bonito. Traditionally, takoyaki were made in street-side carts, and this portable nature makes it very popular at summer festivals.

PAGE 117
Beginner badge
The "wakaba mark" (using the same word found in Wakaba Girls) is a sticker that al new Japanese drivers must display on their cars, resembling a green-and-yellow leaf. It has to stay affixed for a full year after the issuing of the license to alert other drivers to be extra careful. There are several signifying marks that drivers belonging to certain categories must display; an orange-and-yellow leaf mark is issued to drivers over 70 years old, and other symbols exist for disabled and hearing-impaired drivers.

PAGE 121
Hijiki
A type of seaweed that grows along the coasts of Japan, Korea and China. It is highly prized in Japan as a good source of fiber, calcium and iron. It is normally sold dry and meant to be soaked in water before eating. It takes the form of small, short black strands that are no larger than ramen or spaghetti nood es.

TAP
カタ
TAP
カタ
TAP
カタ
THANKS FOR READING

K-ON!
high school
kakifly

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K-ON! HIGH SCHOOL

KAKIFLY

Translation: Stephen Paul

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